

Herald Tribune

PUBLISHED WITH THE NEW YORK TIMES AND THE WASHINGTON POST

London, Tuesday, January 3, 1995

No. 34,788

Trafficking in Humans: Big Business in Europe

Light Penalties and Huge Profits Spell a Boon for Organized Crime

By Marlowe Hood

PARIS — The anti-narcotics officers of the Belgian national police had been waiting for months to arrest a certain Nigerian heroin smuggler. Then last spring, with information gleaned from a phone tap about a shipment arriving by cargo freighter, the opportunity was finally at hand. Arrests and seizure unfolded in textbook fashion.

Except, that is, for one unanticipated detail: The contraband was not narcotic but human — six West African women whose price of passage was to have been indentured servitude in Belgium's prostitution industry.

Migrant trafficking, once a minor part of clandestine migration, has mushroomed into a billion-dollar business that has caught Western Europe off guard. Governments at both ends of the smuggling trail, and at way stations in between, are just beginning to take hastily planned measures.

Although hard figures are difficult to come by, illegal immigration has escalated dramatically over the past two years and organized crime has become much more heavily involved, police officials, immigration experts, academics and government officials said.

Commanding fees of \$250 to \$25,000, professional traffickers have smuggled as many as a half-million illegal immigrants — from as close as Russia and Eastern Europe to as far as China, India and Zaire — into Western European countries in the past two years, according to Jonas Widgren, director of the International Center for Migration Policy Development, a government-funded think tank in Vienna.

Migrant trafficking, in other words, has been a bonanza for organized crime. "It's the same organizations, same money laundering systems, same safe houses, same personnel — just a different commodity," said Major John Al-leart of the Belgian national police, who two years ago set up what remains one of Western Europe's few law enforcement units dedicated to combating immigrant smuggling.

"We are talking about very sophisticated, far-flung networks with access to high-tech communications equipment and the best legal advice money can buy," he said.

For organized crime, the incentives are enormous.

"Trafficking is happening not just to get people into a country but to exploit them in underground economies once they are there," said Jean-Pierre Garson, administrator of the international migration and labor market policies division of the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development.

Not only is migrant smuggling every bit as lucrative as drug smuggling, it is far less risky, police said. Compared to the penalties for trafficking large quantities of illegal drugs, those imposed for trafficking human beings are trivial.

In the Netherlands, for example, alien smuggling was not even a crime until January 1994 and is still only punishable by a maximum of one year in prison. Of 55 convictions in the past two years resulting from arrests by Mr. Al-leart's unit in Belgium, only three or four are still in jail.

"The phenomenon of trafficking already threatens to undermine the very foundation of national immigration systems," said Mr. Widgren, a former undersecretary of state for immigration in Sweden and one of a handful of specialists in Europe who has studied migrant trafficking closely. "The pressures causing the problem are increasing."

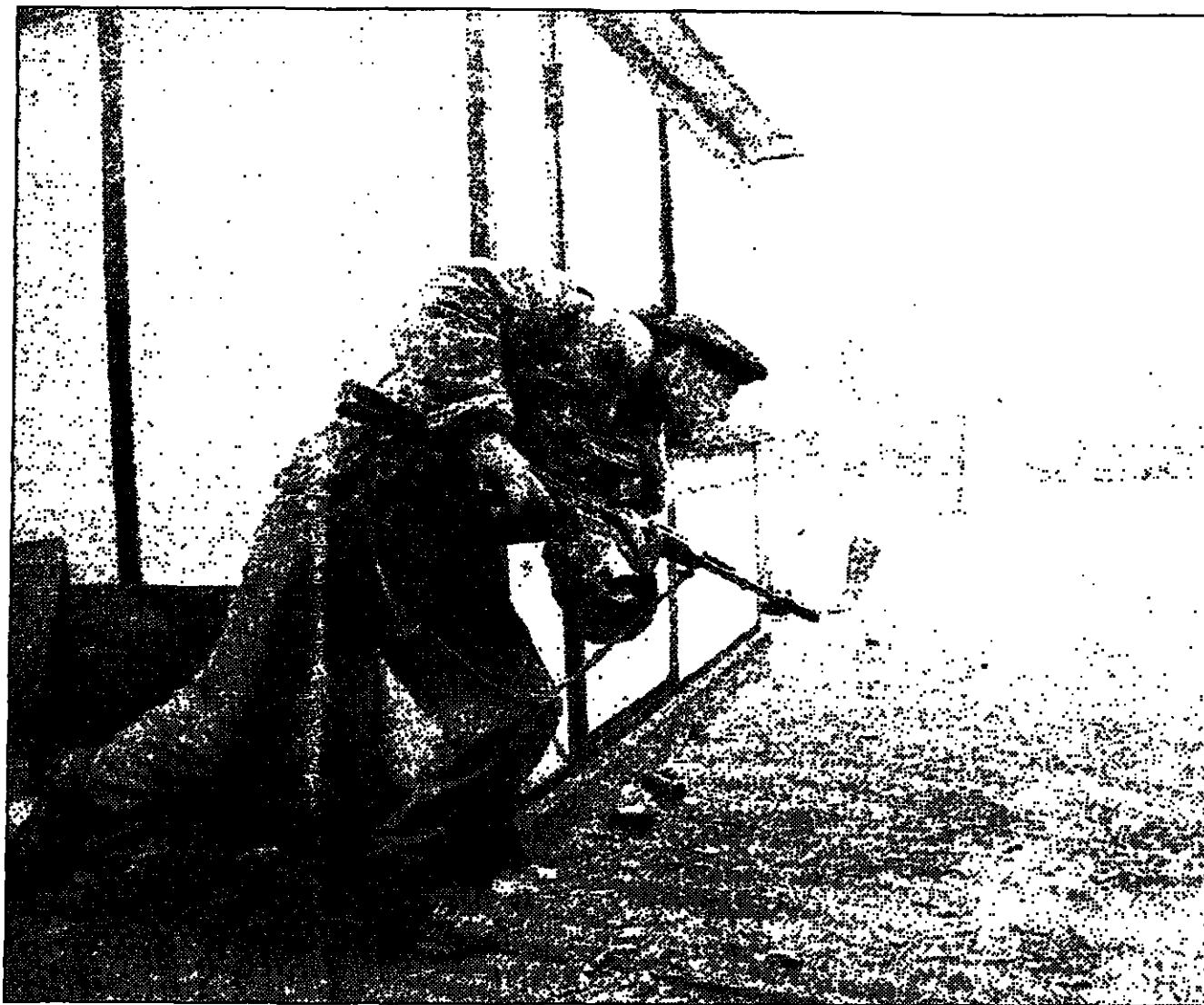
Among those pressures are worsening conditions in countries of origin ranging from war to political persecution to poverty, and the lure of low-wage jobs in wealthy countries.

The dissolution of the Soviet Union and the East Bloc not only added to the flow of migrants, but has also opened up innumerable smuggling routes from East, South and Central Asia.

Such was the case for a hapless group of more than 100 Pakistani migrants stranded by smugglers in the Russian wilderness this summer after paying \$5,000 each for passage to Germany. Several died from exposure.

At about the same time, to cite another among dozens of recent examples, Swiss border police arrested 12 Peruvian women who were en route to underground jobs in Italy after having crossed the Czech Republic, Hungary and Austria. And in August, a Bucharest newspaper reported that "almost every night groups of Asian clandestine migrants — Afghans, Chinese, Indians, Kurds, Pakistanis, among others — can be found camping outside the Roma-

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A Chechen fighter sprinting for position on Monday during heavy fighting with Russian forces in central Grozny.

Rebels Check Russian Drive in Grozny

No Clear Advantage Seen as Street Battles Leave Many Dead

By James Rupert

GROZNY, Russia — Chechen guerrillas on Monday forced back the Russian Army's assault in the center of the capital amid heavy casualties and widespread destruction.

Dozens of destroyed Russian armored vehicles and dead soldiers littered the streets of central and southwestern Grozny, while battles continued to rage in the northwest and east.

It remained uncertain whether Russian forces in Chechnya, estimated at more than 10,000, will be able to capture the rebel capital, but it was clear Monday that they had failed in their first attempt.

As Russian troops retreated, Russian gunners and pilots continued to shell and

bomb Grozny, including residential areas, although less intensively than on Sunday, when they rained explosives onto the city.

Russian planes attacked surrounding rural areas, in one case rocketing an isolated roadside marketplace, killing at least two civilians. Amid the chaos here, it remained difficult to estimate casualties among either soldiers or civilians.

Chechens, fighting in small groups with anti-tank rockets and small arms, broke up at least one major Russian armored column, isolating many of its vehicles in city streets before capturing or destroying them.

Grozny's railroad station plaza is "a cemetery" of Russian armored vehicles, "some of them jammed so close together that it was hard to walk between them,"

said Anatoli Shabad, a Russian legislator who toured the city center.

The three-day assault on Grozny has been "a complete military catastrophe for the Russian Army," Mr. Shabad said. He said he had counted 30 destroyed Russian tanks and armored personnel carriers in central Grozny. "That means a minimum of about 150 Russian soldiers dead, wounded or captured." But he added that "the full figure is more likely somewhere around 400 to 500."

Mr. Shabad said Russia's assault had been crippled because its troops here are disoriented and demoralized.

"They didn't know the roads here, and they didn't understand what their mission

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Rabin Stops A Settlement, Saying Peace Comes First

Israelis Assail Proposal For an Alternative Site; Palestinians Also Object

By Clyde Haberman

JERUSALEM — A bitter dispute over the expansion of a Jewish settlement in the occupied West Bank took a new and uncertain turn Monday when the Israeli government halted construction at a site that had been the focus of Palestinian protests for more than a week.

Hoping to placate the settlers, the government agreed to let them build a planned complex of 500 apartments at a different location, a hilltop somewhat closer to the center of their community, Efrat, and farther from the nearby Arab town of Al Khader.

But it was far from clear whether this action would defuse a tense situation that has shaped up as an important test of Israeli-Palestinian relations as the two sides continue negotiations on how to transfer authority to Palestinians and reposition Israeli soldiers in the West Bank.

"We want peace and we want an agreement, we do not want a binational state," Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin was quoted as saying. The claim of Israeli rightists to huge portions of the West Bank would mean absorbing hundreds of thousands of Palestinians.

"We are talking about a territorial compromise that will secure Jerusalem," Mr. Rabin said. "Whoever wants Jerusalem to reach to Hebron and Ramallah and Jericho will only hurt chances of keeping Jerusalem united," he said.

But the immediate effect of the government decision was to please virtually no one.

Settlers saw it not as a compromise but as a veiled attempt to kill new construction in Efrat, eight kilometers (five miles) southwest of Bethlehem, and by extension in other settlements along the approximately 125 in the West Bank.

Palestinian leaders denounced any settlement expansion as unacceptable and warned that it could cause peace talks to fall apart. In the last few days, protests at Efrat had begun to have ripple effects elsewhere in the West Bank, with Palestinians protesting what they called recent Israeli expropriations of their land near the towns of Ramallah, Nablus and Tulkarm.

Israeli opposition leaders accused Mr. Rabin of buckling under pressure from Yasser Arafat, the leader of the Palestinian self-rule authority, who was among those warning that the fate of negotiations was on the line.

Even within the Rabin government, some ministers did not like the announced compromise.

Those on the left agreed with the Palestinians that construction at Efrat should come to a full stop while more right-leaning cabinet members contended that if Israel were to yield on this matter now, planned construction projects in and around Jerusalem — ultimately, the main

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Beijing Builds Military to Enforce Territorial Claims, Experts Say

By Patrick E. Tyler

BEIJING — As Chinese diplomats talk of peaceful coexistence with their Southeast Asian neighbors, China's military leaders are refurbishing a portion of their large and antiquated military to enforce claims of sovereignty over the South China Sea and its resources, Chinese and Western experts say.

At stake are potentially vast oil reserves, minerals and fishing grounds that intersect some of the world's busiest shipping lanes. With energy demands surging along with the population, oil supplies are falling

behind in China, which in 1993 became a net importer of oil for the first time. So Beijing is likely to attempt to secure any major oil discovery in the South China Sea.

A group of former American military leaders who visited China last year reported that China was forming a limited military force "capable of rapid response" and designed to protect "island claims in the South China Sea as a matter of national priority."

The group was led by former Defense Secretary Robert S. McNamara and four recently retired senior military officers, including David E. Jeremiah, a former vice chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, and James P. McCarthy, a former deputy commander of U.S. forces in Europe.

Although comprehensive military modernization remains a distant goal for China, these and other experts say, Beijing has in recent years built up its military in specific areas by:

- Improving its ability to fight a sustained sea battle with its fleet of surface warships, support vessels and submarine forces.
- Negotiating with Russia for the purchase of a

total of 72 advanced Su-27 attack aircraft capable of providing close air support for naval operations at extended range.

- Organizing a handful of marine units for amphibious assault and training airborne forces for rapid deployment in Soviet-made transport aircraft. One such force is based on Hainan Island for quick dispatch to the Spratlys and the Paracels, two island chains in the South China Sea.
- Developing mobile, conventional-warhead mis-

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Kiosk

Liberians Claim Breach in Truce

MONROVIA, Liberia (Reuters) — Two of Liberia's chief warlords accused each other Monday of breaking a four-day-old cease-fire meant to end their five-year civil war.

Alhaji Kromah, leader of the United Liberation Movement's militia, said his men were under attack in central Liberia by the forces of Charles Taylor. Mr. Kromah warned that his troops would respond if their opponents did not pull back within three days.

"Taylor's forces have launched an offensive against our positions in Bong County," Mr. Kromah said in a radio interview. "We will not stand by and allow his offensives to continue."

Mr. Taylor, who started the civil war in 1989, denied the charge and said that the United Liberation Movement had attacked his men in the St. Paul river area, but that he remained committed to peace.

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Newsstand Prices

Bahrain	0.800 Din	Moldova	35 c.
Cyprus	£1.00	Nigeria	10.00 Naira
Denmark	14.00 D.Kr.	Orman	1,000 Riols
Finland	11 F.M.	Qatar	8.00 Riols
Gibraltar	£0.85	Rep. Ireland	£1.00
Great Britain	£0.85	Saudi Arabia	9.00 R
Egypt	£P. 5000	South Africa	£1.00
Jordan	1 J.D.	U.A.E.	8.50 Dirh
Kenya	K. Sh. 150	U.S. Mil. (Eur.)	\$1.10
Kuwait	500 Fils	Zimbabwe	Zim. \$20.00



BETTER OFF THE ROAD — Germans sledding Monday beside old tank barriers in the winter's first snow near Simmerath, south of Aachen. There were more than 1,000 traffic accidents in Germany, with three people killed.

Low-Voltage Rural India Is Plugging Into the Status Symbol Game

By Molly Moore

BARHANA, India — Hawa Singh was the first resident in his village to buy a washing machine, but his wife, who lugs water from the community hand pump in brass pots atop her head, hasn't used it in more than a year.

His neighbor, Santosh Singh Aehlawat, has a new refrigerator standing in the center of her living room. She uses it mostly as a high-tech cupboard because the village has no power during the day.

Even though washing machines and refrigerators may have little practical use in a farm hamlet with no running water and only a few hours of electricity each night, they have become status symbols in a consumer buying spree that is revolutionizing the aspirations and desires of rural Indians and spawning one of the world's fastest growing consumer marketplaces.

In less than half a decade, a television explosion and India's shift from a socialist to a free-market economy have joined to change the face of rural villages and reshape spending habits.

"Rural India is in the middle of a boom," said Titoo Ahluwalia of the Bombay-based Marketing and Research Group, a prominent Indian market research firm. "Villagers are beginning to see products that have never touched their lives before, and television is the driver."

Television has brought the lifestyle of the urban middle class, with electric kitchen gadgets, motor scooters and fancy furnishings, to villages where women still walk more than a mile for water and collect cow dung to fuel their cooking fires. Economic reforms have filled country shops with luxury items available to only the urban upper classes just five years ago.

The impact of this consumer wave on rural India has been mixed. While modern conveniences have brought some improvement in lifestyles, the growing appetite for material possessions is also stoking greed, sending families deeper into debt, driving marriage dowry costs higher and prompting growing numbers of young people to leave the villages for more lucrative jobs in the city.

"Refrigerators, washing machines, televisions — all this is worthless because we have no electricity," said Dharampal Singh Aehlawat, 40, who lives in this agricultural village in the northern state of Haryana. "But everyone wants the neighbors to see what they have. It's just for showing off."

Hawa Singh, 52, who travels two hours each day to an airport job in New Delhi, argued that washing machines are "good for the women and help them in

their work" and "TV is good for the kids to hear things from outside the village," even though his wife has used the washer barely 20 times in the five years he has owned it and the television is kept packed away in a box.

"Possession becomes more important than usage," said Narayan Swamy, senior vice president of Indica Research, a New Delhi market research firm. "So what if it doesn't blend with your rural lifestyle?"

Anil Kumar, 26, owns one of the half-dozen television repair shops that have opened in the last five years in Dighal, Barhana's neighboring town.

"Television is like a fashion," Mr. Kumar said. "It's something everybody wants to have." Even, he added, if the few hours of electricity the villages receive each

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Dictators Flourish in Africa

Western Aid No Longer Tied to Reform

By Keith B. Richburg

NAIROBI — All across Africa, dictators, military men and traditional autocrats are showing their resilience as democratic movements fade, while Western aid donors seem willing to accept economic modernization, without political reform, as sufficient reason to continue the flow of funds.

Democracy has begun to take root and flourish elsewhere around the world — in Eastern Europe, Latin America and Asia. But Africa in many ways seems to defy the trend, despite a few successful democratic transitions.

Africa's traditional dictators and tribal chieftains — the "Big Men" — have proven surprisingly tenacious. And with Western and American interest in Africa waning, the Big Men are finding it easier to

pursue their policies of political repression free from foreign pressures to reform.

As a result, the democratic tide that appeared poised to sweep the continent at the start of the 1990s has stalled in some places and been turned back in others. Obdurate dictators cling to power in Zaire, Cameroon and Gabon. Soldiers have consolidated their grip in Sierra Leone and Africa's most populous country, Nigeria.

Moreover, Africa's democrats feel they have been abandoned by their longtime allies in the West, who once insisted on serious moves toward democracy before authorizing aid, but who seem to be accepting merely cosmetic changes implemented by authoritarian rulers.

There have been a few noteworthy successes, particularly in South Africa, where Nelson Mandela became president last

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Bosnian Croats Sign UN Truce Accord

Only Krajina Serbs Hold Out Among the Warring Parties

Compiled by Our Staff From Dispatches

SARAJEVO, Bosnia-Herzegovina — The United Nations won wider backing Monday for the nationwide truce in Bosnia as the Bosnian Croats signed the accord.

The Muslim-led Bosnian government and the Bosnian Serbs, who are the chief antagonists in the 33-month conflict, signed the four-month truce agreement on Saturday.

Only the Serbs from the Krajina region of Croatia, fighting in the northwest Bihac enclave, have yet to sign the pact that was brokered last month by former President Jimmy Carter of the United States.

Mr. Carter worked out the broad lines of the cease-fire, but it fell to the UN commander in Bosnia, Lieutenant General Michael Rose, to nail down the details.

The agreement was signed in the Croatian stronghold of Mostar in southern Bosnia, after the United Nations repeatedly voiced its concern over reports that Bosnian Croatian troops, initially not a party to the accord, were still fighting the Serbs.

Fighting in Bihac, involving Bosnian and Krajina Serbs alongside rebel Muslims against the Bosnian government army's 5th Corps, threatened to torpedo the truce last week.

UN sources said the UN's commander in the former Yugoslavia, General Bertrand Lapresle, raised the issue with the leader of the Krajina Serbs, Borislav Mirkovic, during talks at Zagreb airport on Monday. No results were announced as yet.

"We are trying to put an end to Serb involvement in Bihac fighting, now that the truce has taken effect," a UN source said. The front lines in Bosnia remained largely quiet Monday, but the truce was violated in

Sarajevo when a missile slammed into the Holiday Inn. There were no casualties.

"It could have been fired by the Bosnian Serbs but we can't confirm it," said a UN spokesman, Captain Miriam Shashi.

Prime Minister Haris Siljadic of Bosnia said the attack was aimed at keeping pressure on the Sarajevo government "to accept a political solution favorable to the regime in Belgrade."

The United Nations expressed the hope that the accord would lead to an early resumption of peace talks on a negotiated settlement of the Bosnian conflict.

"Cessation of hostilities is not an end in itself," said another UN spokesman, Alexander Ivanko. "What it does is provide conditions on the ground so that a negotiated and fair political settlement could be reached in Bosnia."

The rivals now face a difficult task of negotiating minute details of the agreement, including opening of roads and disengagement of forces along the 1,600-kilometer-long (1,000-mile) confrontation lines.

Mr. Ivanko said there was no time to be lost.

"The further both parties will be down the road to peace, the harder it will be for them to go back to war," he said.

For the Muslim-led government, an important test of Serbian goodwill would be the reopening of roads to civilian traffic into Sarajevo.

The UN special envoy, Yasushi Akashi, said he expected the warring parties to return to the negotiating table within weeks in talks organized by the five-nation "contact group" on Bosnia: the United States, Russia, Germany, France and Britain.

(Reuters, AFP, AP)



The photograph released by North Korea of Kim Jong Il's New Year's Day appearance, his first since October.

North Korea's Kim Surfaces for Photo

Compiled by Our Staff From Dispatches

SEOUL — North Korea released a photograph of Kim Jong Il on Monday in an apparent attempt to stifle rumors that the new leader was suffering from debilitating ill health and facing a power struggle.

Mr. Kim has been conspicuously absent from public life since the July 20 funeral of his father, Kim Il Sung. Speculation over his grip on power deepened Sunday when he failed to make North Korea's traditional New Year's Day address.

A black-and-white photograph, released through the Tokyo-based Korea News Service, showed Mr. Kim bundled up in a winter coat and fur hat and

smiling as he received a bouquet of flowers from a soldier of the North Korean People's Army.

The caption did not mention where the picture was taken, but the North's official press reported Sunday that Mr. Kim had a picture taken with soldiers during his New Year's Day visit to an army barracks. It was his first public appearance in two months.

Mr. Kim was also reported by the North's press agency, KCNA, to have exchanged New Year's cards with foreign leaders, including China's senior leader, Deng Xiaoping, and President Fidel Castro of Cuba.

In the photograph, Mr. Kim appeared to have regained some weight. The last

time he appeared in public, he seemed to have lost a considerable amount of weight, fanning rumors of kidney and liver ailments.

Mr. Kim, 52, has been groomed to take over from his father, but so far he has rarely appeared in public, and the government has not yet said he has assumed the posts of state president and Communist Party general secretary.

South Korea's national news agency, Yonhap, noted that Mr. Kim chose a missile unit south of Pyongyang as the place to visit on New Year's Day.

"By traveling a relatively long distance, Kim may have been trying to show that he has no health problem," Yonhap said.

(AP, AFP)

WORLD BRIEFS

U.K. Prison Criticized Over Suicide

LONDON (Reuters) — Britain's chief prison inspector said Monday that officers should have kept a 24-hour watch on the suspected serial killer Frederick West, who was found hanged in his cell.

His death on Sunday renewed a political dispute over security lapses in British prisons, with opposition politicians citing the suicide as an example of mismanagement by the prison services. And Judge Stephen Tamm, the chief prison inspector, said: "Prisoners at risk should be watched by someone else the whole time."

But prison officers said that Mr. West, 53, had been checked every 15 minutes and contended it was impossible to thwart a suicide if the person was determined. Mr. West was suspected of killing 12 women and girls and burying most of the victims at his home. He was found hanged from the bars of his cell at Winston Green Prison, near Birmingham, by a noose made from his clothing.

Germany Accuses 9 of Nazi Offenses

ERFURT, Germany (Reuters) — Prosecutors in Eastern Germany have charged nine suspected far-rightists for giving the stiff-armed Hitler salute and distributing banned neo-Nazi propaganda, a spokesman said Monday.

The spokesman for the prosecutor's office in the eastern city of Weimar said the nine were believed to be members of the far-right Viking Youth, a neo-Nazi group that was banned in November.

He said the people charged, aged 17 to 45, had gone camping near Weimar in July and had marched around saying "Heil Hitler" and saluting Nazi symbols and material are banned in Germany and, if convicted, the defendants could face up to three years in jail or a fine.

Sri Lanka Revives Talks With Rebels

COLOMBO (AFP) — The Sri Lankan government on Monday announced the resumption of suspended peace talks with separatist Tamil guerrillas in a bid to work out a cease-fire.

President Chandrika Bandaranaike Kumaratunga's office said that a five-member government team would begin negotiations Tuesday with the separatist Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam. Talks will be in the rebel-held northern Jaffna Peninsula.

Mrs. Kumaratunga opened a dialogue with the separatists shortly after becoming president in August but suspended talks when the rebels were implicated in the October bombing of the opposition leader, Gamini Dissanayake.

Opposition Stages Strike in Dhaka

DHAKA, Bangladesh (AFP) — The police clashed with protesters Monday as the first in a series of New Year strikes called by the Bangladesh opposition to bring down Prime Minister Khaliqa Zia gripped the capital.

Opposition parties went ahead with an eight-hour work stoppage in Dhaka despite a new plea by the prime minister on Sunday for an end to the country's nine-month political crisis.

The opposition, however, suspended a decision to enforce the strike nationwide, and business was conducted as usual in the cities of Chittagong and Rajshahi after initial confusion early Monday, residents and opposition sources said.

Rival Militiamen Battle in Mogadishu

MOGADISHU, Somalia (Reuters) — Rival Somali militiamen battled for a key district of Mogadishu for a third straight day on Monday, seeking to win access to the seaport before United Nations troops withdraw.

Six people were reported killed Monday, and five died over the weekend, Somali doctors and witnesses in Mogadishu said. A Bangladeshi UN peacekeeper was wounded by a stray bullet.

A shell damaged a roof at the airport on Sunday but did not delay the departure of the first group of 259 Malaysian UN troops, leaving about 9,000 UN personnel in Somalia after the withdrawal of the Indian and Zimbabwean contingents. The UN Security Council ordered all UN forces out of the country by the end of March because of the failure of warlords to agree on peace and a new government.

For the Record

The death toll rose to six in the New Year's Eve fire that swept through the Swirel Hotel's banquet room in Antwerp, Belgium, officials said. The latest victim was a Belgian woman. Another 38 are still critically injured. (Reuters)

TRAVEL UPDATE

El Al Rejects Russian Security Rule

JERUSALEM (Reuters) — Israel's airline El Al canceled its flight to Moscow on Monday after Russian authorities barred its security agents from carrying weapons, an airline spokesman said. "We decided to cancel the flight following changes in our standard security procedures, which were forced upon us by the Russians," said the spokesman for El Al.

Russian police on Dec. 30 barred the carrier's security agents from carrying weapons at Moscow's Sheremetyevo airport. "El Al will not operate flights to any destination in which our security procedures are compromised," the spokesman said. He said any decision on other flights would be made day-to-day based on the Russian policy. El Al flies three times a week to Moscow and once a week to St. Petersburg.

Ten thousand Israelis have visited Jordan and about 1,000 Jordanians have crossed into the Jewish state since the two countries opened their common border three months ago, an Israeli official said Monday. (AFP)

Virgin Atlantic Airways is offering for three days a \$99 one-way fare to London on any of Virgin's three daily flights from New York. The airline said passengers may purchase tickets Tuesday through Thursday for flights on Tuesdays and Wednesdays through April 6. (Bloomberg)

RUSSIA: No Clear Advantage Is Seen as Street Battles Leave Many Dead

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here is supposed to be," he told journalists in a town on the Chechen border.

As of Monday morning, Mr. Shabad said, the Chechens held 20 Russians prisoner at the presidential palace, where he had been staying. A police commander in Grozny said the Chechens had a total of more than 100 Russian prisoners.

By early afternoon, Russian troops and tanks continued to battle for the main industrial zone in northwestern Grozny, the police commander said. But in other areas, journalists found Chechens holding sites where Russian earlier had advanced and been forced back.

On Saturday and Sunday, officials in Moscow claimed that Russian troops controlled the area around the presidential palace and the railroad station. But journalists found Chechens holding both locations Monday morning.

At the presidency, guerrillas waved the Chechen flag and shouted triumphantly for television crews that reached there. Still, the battle in the center continued, with Russians shelling the area and exchanging rifle and machine-gun fire with the rebels.

For the third day, Grozny remained a disorienting nightmare. In muddy, icy streets, explosions erupted from behind a veil of smoke and fog.

In a broad, misty plaza at the city's center, as gunfire crackled nearby, a television crew found a young woman sitting dazed on a park bench in her coat and knit cap. A few yards from her feet lay an unexploded tank shell.

Amid the chaos, a complete picture of the battle was impossible. But across the center and southwest of the city a trail of charred Russian tanks and soldiers' bodies illustrated the bloody defeat of a Russian thrust that had aimed to encircle the main part of the city.

The Russians' farthest advance was marked Monday

morning by the bodies of five soldiers from a light tank captured by Chechens in a fire-fight. At a police station near by, Chechen rebels presented three other crewmen from the tank whom they had captured.

The prisoners said their tank was part of an armored column that had pushed southwest through the city late Sunday. In the confusion of gunfire and unfamiliar streets, "we got lost," said a 19-year-old crewman named Volodya.

"We didn't know where to go. We wanted to get back," he said. "We realized we were going in circles," he said. The crew

jumped out of the tank when it was hit by rocket fire.

■ **Opposition Grows**
Lee Hockstader of The Washington Post reported from Moscow:

There were signs that the Russian Parliament, which is already on the record as strongly opposed to the war in Chechnya, is preparing a political attack on the war and the government.

Several members of the Duma, or lower house, who had been in Grozny returned to Moscow Monday and denounced the Russian operation there in emotional terms. Viktor Sheinis, a liberal deputy, called the operation "monstrous both in its planning and its execution."

Another liberal Parliament member, Lev Ponomarev, said: "I wonder why this operation drags on. I think I know why: Because Grachev the butcher wants to put off the moment when he finds himself in the dock. And I'm sure he will end up in the dock." He was referring to Defense Minister Pavel S. Grachev.

■ **Spiked Champagne Kills 10**
The Associated Press

DUSHANBE, Tajikistan — Ten people, including six Russian servicemen and a Russian diplomat's wife, died after drinking spiked champagne made in this former Soviet republic.

Veteran Russian Journalist Killed in Grozny Fighting

The Associated Press

MOSCOW — A veteran Russian war correspondent, Vladimir Zhitarrenko, died after a bullet struck him in the head while covering the fighting in the breakaway Russian republic of Chechnya. He was 54.

Mr. Zhitarrenko, who worked for the military daily Krasnaya Zvezda, was killed Sunday while reporting on fighting in the Chechen capital of Grozny, the Defense Ministry said.

A journalist for 30 years, Mr.

Zhitarrenko volunteered to go to Chechnya for his newspaper, the Itar-Tass news agency reported.

He previously had covered the war in Afghanistan as well as numerous armed conflicts in the former Soviet Union.

Mr. Zhitarrenko was the second journalist killed while covering the war in Chechnya. An American free-lance photographer, Cynthia Elbaum, 28, died during a rocket attack on Grozny on Dec. 22.

Leipzig Under Siege — From Shopping Malls

By Craig R. Whitney

New York Times Service

LEIPZIG — Watching change come to Eastern Germany since the collapse of communism five years ago is like watching newsreels of life from the 1950s to the 1990s in fast-forward.

Office buildings and construction cranes have sprung up in every major city. Streets have been torn up for new telephone lines, new sewers and new power cables, and then torn up again for new cable television wires.

New roads snake steadily out from city centers, drawing suburban housing developments with them and bringing cars, more cars, and constant traffic jams.

Now comes what some think could change the traditional German urban life-style more than anything else yet: American-style suburban shopping malls, surrounded by vast parking lots with fast-food outlets and cineplexes. Leipzig has the biggest one in the country.

"We now have the greatest concentration of these shop-

ping centers in all of Germany," said Niels Gormsen, the supervisor of construction projects in Leipzig. "We see a danger that too many could kill off downtown commercial districts, just like in America."

Mr. Gormsen and many other planners here would like to avoid the commercial strips and decay of the city center, as

derground parking garages, pedestrian zones, and modern streetcar lines so cities could survive the automobile and even less of the total purchasing power. More than half of all retail shopping space in Eastern Germany is outside the city centers, while in Western Germany only 25 to 30 percent is, he said.

"The main danger we see is not to the centers of historic cities like Leipzig or Dresden, but to neighborhoods on the periphery," Mr. Gormsen said.

Already, it can take more than an hour to drive the 15 kilometers (10 miles) from Leipzig to Germany's biggest shopping mall, Saale Park. Two smaller malls have sprouted along the way.

"Most days, you just sit in a traffic jam to get out here," said Gabriele Smetanin, who had come to Saale Park to shop at the Peek & Cloppenberg department store there.

Kurstadt AG, a national chain that is planning to open a new store in Leipzig next year, calculated recently that the new suburban malls were

just outside the crumbling major cities.

In the urban area around Leipzig and Halle alone, where 800,000 people live, shopping centers with a total floor space of 85 hectares (215 acres) have opened and permission has been granted to build another 25 hectares.

"What they are building now are bankruptcies in the making," said Ulrich Hatzfeld, an urban expert in Dortmund.

He said that nearly half the

shopping centers now being planned in Germany were in the East, which has only 20 percent of the population and even less of the total purchasing power.

More than half of all retail shopping space in Eastern Germany is outside the city centers, while in Western Germany only 25 to 30 percent is, he said.

"The main danger we see is not to the centers of historic cities like Leipzig or Dresden, but to neighborhoods on the periphery," Mr. Gormsen said.

Already, it can take more than an hour to drive the 15 kilometers (10 miles) from Leipzig to Germany's biggest shopping mall, Saale Park. Two smaller malls have sprouted along the way.

"Most days, you just sit in a traffic jam to get out here," said Gabriele Smetanin, who had come to Saale Park to shop at the Peek & Cloppenberg department store there.

Kurstadt AG, a national chain that is planning to open a new store in Leipzig next year, calculated recently that the new suburban malls were

siphoning off \$380 million in annual sales from downtown Dresden, \$255 million from Leipzig, and \$240 million from Chemnitz.

"We're bringing customers a variety of choice they never dreamed of in the Communist days," said Bernhard Jager, the manager of Saale Park, "and we've created hundreds of jobs."

Jutta Richter, who lives in central Leipzig, said of shopping at Saale Park: "I bought a couple of couches, and if I have to put a new kitchen into our next apartment, I'll go there again to get it."

But Mrs. Richter said she didn't enjoy the experience, and prefers to shop in town.

"You can't imagine how overwhelmed we are by all the changes we have gone through," she said. "Until five years ago, there was only one of everything, always at the same price, and the only question you asked when you went shopping was what the stores had that particular day. Now it takes me half an hour just to figure out which detergent is the best buy."

SHOPPERS: India on a Spree

Continued from Page 1

night is of such low voltage that it cannot power decent television reception.

But television, more than any other single factor, is driving the consumer boom in rural India. Across the country, the number of households owning television sets has doubled in the last five years to 40 million. More than 40 percent of rural residents have access to a set, according to a recent survey.

"Once you start watching TV, your idea of what is a good living changes," said Mr. Swamy of India. "Then your perceived needs go up."

On the dusty main street of Dighal, where cows, water buffalo and ox carts compete with trucks, tractors and bicycles for road space, Vijay Kumar, 21, dispenses name-brand toiletries produced in India by international companies.

But villagers have more disposable income today than a decade ago. In Barhana and Dighal, there is hardly a family that does not send at least one male member into New Delhi, two hours away, for a job.

THE AMERICAS / GREAT WELFARE DEBATE

Canada's Leader Rides High First Year in Office Nets 75-Percent Approval

By Charles Trueheart

TORONTO — Jean Chrétien has finished his first full year as prime minister with more of the electorate supporting him than any other Canadian leader in the postwar era: 75 percent, according to a recent poll.

The puzzle to many is that Mr. Chrétien has so little to show for his public standing in the way of policy, legislation or risky decision-making.

"The political world hasn't seen numbers like these since those Romanian and Bulgarian elections in the good old days," said Norman Webster, former editor of the *Montreal Gazette* and now a columnist.

Michael Bliss, a historian, said: "He's in that happy state of being able to do no wrong. It's the complete reverse of the Bill Clinton syndrome."

The question today is whether that support can shield Mr. Chrétien from the costs of difficult decisions this year. The genial and modest Quebecer took office nearly a year after Mr. Clinton did, restoring the Liberal Party of Lester Pearson and Pierre Elliott Trudeau to power after nine years of Conservative rule that echoed Ronald Reagan's years south of the border.

Since then, the polls suggest that Canadians have bonded to their unassuming prime minister in ways that resemble the affinity most Americans felt a decade ago for the detached father-figure Mr. Reagan.

Mr. Webster, choosing another American model, referred to Mr. Chrétien's "Harry Truman impersonation."

But virtually every analyst offered a more immediate and less flattering explanation for Mr. Chrétien's success.

"It's the sign he wears that says 'I'm not Brian Mulroney,'" said Mr. Bliss. Mr. Mulroney, the Conservative prime minister until 18 months ago, was widely detested by Canadians, who nevertheless elected him twice in the 1980s.

"Chrétien can relate to ordinary Canadians in a way Mulroney never could," Mr. Bliss said.

At 60, the prime minister has a profile of probity and has made good government his watchword. One seasoned observer in Ottawa described it as a "near perfect fit between the temper of the times and the temper of the man."

In contrast to Mr. Mulroney's limousine life-style and an odor of cynicism, Mr. Chrétien is associated with Chevrolet and used government furniture.

As further luck and circumstance would have it for Mr. Chrétien, Canada is enjoying a modest economic recovery, and there is no national political opposition to the government.

The 1993 elections that brought the Liberals to power also rewarded them with a dramatically fragmented political landscape. The Progressive Conservatives, for generations Canada's other major party, dropped under the weight of Mr. Mulroney's legacy from 154 seats in the House of Commons to 2.

The quasi-socialist New Democrats, Canada's traditional third party, were trimmed from 43 seats to 9.

As those two parties struggle to stay alive, Mr. Chrétien's parliamentary opposition comprises two others that barely existed five years ago. Both command only regional support — the separatist Bloc Québécois, with most of the seats from Quebec, and the conservative Reform Party, whose members hail from the Canadian West.

Free from the pressures of a unified national opposition, Mr. Chrétien has offered crowd-pleasing but politically inexpensive decisions on a number of issues and indulged a traditional Liberal habit of gentle America-bashing.

His greatest triumph of 1994 was leading a trade mission to China. Instead of using the



Jean Chrétien: He's not Brian Mulroney.

honeymoon of his first year to forge bold new fiscal austerity, as some had hoped, he has ordered lengthy public consultations and program reviews.

"This is no government with a burning mission to reform, but rather a low-profile operation trying to disguise the fact that Canada is wildly, desperately broke," Mr. Webster wrote in a recent *Gazette* column.

Adjusting for Canada's population, about one-tenth that of the United States, Mr. Chrétien is faced with national debt problems every bit as enormous and fiscal solutions every bit as punishing as those facing Mr. Clinton. The Liberals have pledged to cut Canada's annual operating deficit to about \$18 billion, or 3 percent of gross domestic product, by 1997; critics say this target is too modest even as they doubt Mr. Chrétien will have the political will to meet it.

Finance Minister Paul Martin will unveil a budget in Ottawa in February that another cabinet member reportedly called the most painful since World War II. It is almost certain to include the sting of tax increases.

On top of that, the writer of economic problems, there is Quebec's newly energized threat to leave Canada. Mr. Chrétien has been a lifelong politician in the federal capital and an opponent of the secession of the province in which he was born.

Yet on this front considered so crucial to Canada, Mr. Chrétien seldom has wavered from the script that elected him: The less said about Quebec the better.

Even as the separatist Parti Québécois, which just took control of the provincial government last fall, builds momentum toward a mid-1995 referendum on separation, Mr. Chrétien has said little. This angers the Canadian right and many in the pro-unity pundit class in English Canada, who are urging him to take on the separatists.

Mr. Chrétien's standing in his home province makes him especially wary of making an injudicious remark. In some circles there, he is regarded as a turncoat, a sellout to the rest of Canada. His Canada-wide popularity ratings are all the more impressive in light of his depressed support, about 40 percent, from Quebec's French-speaking majority.

Are Poor Entitled to a Government Safety Net?

By Robert Pear

WASHINGTON — A great debate is about to begin over one of the major premises of America's social welfare policy: that low-income people have legal rights to government aid guaranteeing a minimum standard of living.

Many of the Republicans who take control of Congress on Wednesday contend that welfare, Medicaid and food stamps should be stripped of their status as open-ended "entitlements." Instead, they say, Congress should appropriate fixed amounts of money each year for those programs, whose size would no longer increase automatically when, for example, a recession put more people out of work.

Neither Democrats nor Republicans are proposing to make significant changes in the largest entitlement program, Social Security, or to withdraw the entitlement status of Medicare, although the money spent on those two

programs dwarfs the spending on welfare and food stamps.

Instead, the battle lines have been drawn over the use of entitlements to guarantee a minimum standard of living for the poor. That struggle transcends the debate over specific Republican proposals that would, for example, increase the use of orphanages, impose stringent work requirements on welfare recipients and eliminate aid to the children of young unmarried women.

Here is the outlook:

• The Clinton administration is reassessing the whole question of entitlements, is receptive to some changes and has not decided on a strategy for dealing with Republican proposals to restructure the welfare system.

• Nonpartisan experts believe that Congress may, for the first time, limit federal Medicaid spending, which has doubled in four years, reaching \$82 billion in 1994. Medicaid provides health care for 33 million low-income people;

Medicare finances health care for 36 million people who are elderly or disabled.

• Congress will consider giving states a lump-sum payment, or block grant, to help poor people now entitled to benefits under the main cash welfare program, Aid to Families with Dependent Children.

• The food stamp program is perhaps the most secure of the major benefit programs for poor people. House Republicans want to put it into a block grant with other food and nutrition programs, but they expect resistance because food stamps have support from a middle-class constituency that includes farmers, grocers and the food industry generally.

• We have to get these programs off autopilot," said Representative Christopher Shays, Republican of Connecticut, who is on the House Budget Committee.

Congress would need more control over spending to comply with a pro-

posed constitutional amendment to require a balanced federal budget, he said in an interview.

Democrats say the welfare and food stamp programs serve a valuable economic purpose, infusing money into a state when recession hits, unemployment rises and more families need assistance.

In an entitlement program, the government has a legal obligation to pay benefits to all applicants who meet eligibility criteria set by law. If the demand for aid exceeds expectations, Congress must somehow come up with more money.

Entitlement programs account for slightly more than half of all federal spending, roughly \$800 billion of \$1.5 trillion last year.

The government spent \$475 billion on Social Security and Medicare in 1994, compared with a total of \$125 billion on Aid to Families with Dependent Children, food stamps and Medicaid.

Congressional Democrats Brace for Bitter Reality

By Ruth Marcus

WASHINGTON — Congressional Democrats returned to town from the holidays divided and uncertain about the best ways to reverse Republican gains, and bracing themselves for the unpleasant reality of life in the minority.

While Republicans, particularly in the House, prospered in part because they maintained a generally united stance in opposition, Democrats continue to speak with many voices. And they are particularly divided over the wisdom of endorsing a middle-class tax cut, as both President Bill Clinton and the new House minority leader, Representative Richard A. Gephardt, Democrat of Missouri, have done.

Some agreed with the two

Democratic leaders that it was necessary for the party to have Democratic voices heard on the subject, to remind voters that middle-class tax cuts have been part of the party's agenda, that Democrats are the true friends of middle-class Americans.

Others contended that cutting taxes now would be fiscally and politically foolish, abandoning the deficit-cutting high ground the Democrats have occupied for the last two years and putting them in the position of looking like pale, "me-too" versions of Republicans.

Democrats from the House and Senate interviewed during the past two weeks agreed that while the physical transition from majority to minority after 40 years may be in place by Wednesday, the psychological journey would take far longer.

"It's been very, very difficult to shift in that mind-set because we've been in the majority so long and it's just been so difficult," said Representative Robert T. Matsui, Democrat of California.

House Democrats, he said, are "really into control."

"We always want to be in charge, and when you lose control you do become very impatient and anxious," he said. "I think we really have to have a personality transplant in some respects."

Representative Anna G. Eshoo, Democrat of California, said that while she thought her Democratic colleagues "know they have to fight," her sense on coming back to Washington after the lame-duck session was that "a lot of people must have

been thinking to themselves, 'How the heck are we going to do this?'"

In the Senate, where Democrats have a more recent experience of minority status and which operates under rules that are kinder to those out of power, life in the new Democratic minority is likely to be less wrenching.

"We're in a different mode," said Senator John B. Breaux, Democrat of Louisiana. "We're not setting the agenda anymore. We respond to their agenda with our proposals."

Still, he said, "We're in the same position as the last Congress in the sense that neither side has 60 votes," the number needed to end a filibuster, or the two-thirds needed to override a presidential veto.

As a result, he said, "I think

you'll find more working together and common ground between the Democrats in the Senate working with Republicans."

"It is remarkable to me how many Democrats, if you pushed them, would agree with the notion that it was much more interesting to listen to Newt Gingrich than it was to listen to ourselves over the last few months," said Representative David E. Bonior, Democrat of Colorado. "We were not fully represented on the battlefield of ideas."

The Democratic message, said Senator Russell D. Feingold, Democrat of Wisconsin, "is in disarray right now."

POLITICAL NOTES

A New Lease for Clinton

HILTON HEAD, South Carolina — "Life," the Southern boy's mother warned him, "is like a box of chocolates: You never know what you're gonna get."

With those thoughts, delivered in a wry, drawing homage to the fictional Forrest Gump, another Southern boy, Bill Clinton, welcomed 1995 this weekend, adding in his best self-mocking manner: "Maybe that's why I never liked chocolate."

Or so said several of the hundreds of guests who joined the president, who is, in fact, allergic to chocolate, at the annual Renaissance Weekend retreat here, and heard his off-the-record reflections at a private New Year's Eve party of singing, hand-holding, reminiscences and hopes for the future.

His listeners said Mr. Clinton was in fine fettle during his 15-minute after-dinner talk late Saturday night, laughing about all the unsolicited advice he gets. "He said, 'I've gotten a lot of great advice lately, like: Don't waffle, compromise,'" one guest recalled.

"Some of us had speculated that he might take this occasion to whine," said an old acquaintance and onetime booster who has been sharply critical of his presidency. "He didn't." (NYT)

2d Chance for the Mayor

WASHINGTON — Four years after being forced from the mayor's office in disgrace, Marion Barry is back, promising to make the nation's capital "newer and better."

During his absence, Mr. Barry served six months in prison for a drug conviction, got divorced, won a seat on the city council and got married for a fourth time.

"I see myself as a transformer," Mr. Barry, 38, said Sunday during inaugural events a day before his swearing in at the University of the District of Columbia. "A transformer means to make even better and we're

going to make Washington newer and better."

At a luncheon and morning church service, Mr. Barry devoted New Year's Day to reflections on spirituality, faith and redemption.

"Give me a chance to be successful and with your help I'll be successful," said Mr. Barry. (AP)

Quote/Unquote

George F. Pataki, New York's first Republican governor in 20 years, referring in his inaugural address to his plans for sweeping changes: "What those in government have done, those in government can undo." (NYT)

New President In Brazil Pledges To Fight Inflation

New York Times Service

BRASILIA — Fernando Henrique Cardoso, a 63-year-old sociologist, has been inaugurated as Brazil's president, promising to devote his energy to banishing inflation from Latin America's largest nation.

The "majority of Brazilians made a clear choice" for low inflation and high growth, Mr. Cardoso said, referring to his landslide victory in October.

Mr. Cardoso, the architect of Brazil's radically successful anti-inflation plan, also vowed in his inaugural address Sunday to further open Brazil to foreign investment and trade.

With "the opening of the Brazilian economy, we are leaving behind xenophobic attitudes," said Mr. Cardoso, whose government experience includes recent stints as foreign minister and finance minister.

"Today, there is no serious specialist who does not forecast for Brazil anything but a long period of growth," he said.



CELEBRATING A REVOLT — Masked rebels in the Mexican state of Chiapas celebrating the first anniversary of their uprising. Hundreds gathered for the event near Guadalupe Tepeyac, where they heard a taped message from their commander, who predicted economic hardship for Mexicans and urged the governing party's "liquidation."

Away From Politics

• Three Americans were killed by bullets apparently fired randomly into the air by New Year's celebrants, the authorities said. The victims were in Phoenix, Arizona, New Orleans and Atlanta.

• An 18-year-old youth trying to help an injured man into his home on New Year's Eve was shot and killed by the man's frightened son, the police said in Purdy, Washington. Three friends found the man injured in his car. They offered to call for help, but the man asked to be taken to his trailer home nearby, Detective Terry Wilson said. Once there, the man realized he did not have his keys and told the men no one was home and to break a window to get inside. The man's 13-year-old son shot and killed one of the men, Christopher Blake West, as he started climbing in through the kitchen window.

• Notes and drawings found in the home of

Edward J. Leary, the accused New York subway bomber, show that he planned to detonate bombs with motion-sensing devices and remote controls and to gun people down with a high-powered rifle as part of a terror campaign in the subway, a law-enforcement official said. The two gasoline bomb explosions that have been attributed to Mr. Leary were both meant to explode aboard trains while they were in tunnels, said the official. (NYT)

• Senator Howell Heflin, Democrat of Alabama, was released from the hospital after having his pacemaker adjusted, his spokesman said. Mr. Heflin, 73, who was admitted to University Hospital in Birmingham on Friday, was to remain in the city for several days to undergo outpatient tests. The pacemaker procedure did not involve surgery. (AP)

Mohammed Siad Barre, Somalia's Ruler for 2 Decades, Dies

Compiled by Our Staff From Dispatches

LAGOS — Former President Mohammed Siad Barre of Somalia, who thrived off Cold War rivalries but left his nation in anarchy and on the brink of famine, died Monday in exile in Lagos. He was about 80.

Mr. Siad Barre had lived in Nigeria since 1992, a year after rebels overthrew him in a brutal siege of the Somali capital, Mogadishu.

He was diabetic and had been sick for some time, said his son, Dirie Barre, adding that the family was hoping to grant his wish to be buried in Somalia.

Mr. Siad Barre rose from his origins as an orphaned shepherd boy to rule Somalia for more than two decades using a mixture of terror and guile.

He survived defeat in a long war with Ethiopia, and was

courted both by the Soviet Union and the United States.

He led Somalia through a succession of droughts, and kept power in a land of anarchic nomads by playing a myriad of squabbling clans against one another.

But he left behind a country vulnerable to those same forces. War and famine combined in 1992 to kill 350,000 people in the nation of 8 million.

Orphaned at 10, he scratched a living as a shepherd before joining the colonial police force, where he rose to chief inspector, the highest rank possible for a Somali under Italian administration.

Largely self-taught, he studied voraciously, gaining a secondary school equivalency and going on to a military course at an army college in Italy, the colonial power.

When Somalia gained independence in 1960, Mr. Siad Barre was appointed the new nation's army deputy commander. Five years later, he became commander in chief.

After leading a coup on Oct. 21, 1969, Mr. Siad Barre blended Marxist doctrine, Somali traditions and Islamic precepts into what he called "scientific socialism."

The Soviet Union formed a close alliance with Mr. Siad Barre in 1974, but three years later abandoned him for Ethiopia after the two African nations went to war over the Ogaden desert that forms part of their border.

The United States then threw its support to Somalia.

Both superpowers saw Ethiopia and Somalia as crucial to control of the narrow eastern

access to the Red Sea, which both countries border.

But interest waned in Mr. Siad Barre's government with diminishing Cold War rivalries and because of his government's brutal treatment of its opponents.

The Somali military killed 40,000 to 50,000 unarmed civilians between June 1988 and January 1990, according to the human-rights group Africa Watch.

Border clashes, complicated by Somali and Ethiopian government support for armed dissidents on either side, continued for years.

Driven by rebels from his palace in Mogadishu in 1991, Mr. Siad Barre was forced out of his stronghold in the south-west a year later. He fled first to Kenya with 1,200 supporters and members of his huge family

before finding asylum in Nigeria in May 1992. (AP, Reuters)

Mustapha Harun, 76, Malaysian Politician

KUALA LUMPUR (AP) — Mustapha Harun, 76, a one-time office orderly who helped lead Sabah out of the British empire and into Malaysia, died Monday of a heart attack in the Sabah state capital of Kota Kinabalu.

He became Sabah's governor when the territory, formerly British North Borneo, became part of the Malaysian federation in 1963. He later won the state's highest elective position, chief minister, in 1967.

He was the first member of

the United Sabah National Organization, which governed Sabah from 1967 to 1976.

Miriam Camps, 78, who wrote about European unification and other topics and who had been a U.S. State Department official, died Friday of lung cancer in a hospital near her home in Little Abington outside Cambridge, England.

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Rich World, Poor World

The world is getting steadily richer. The World Bank, chief source of the numbers that track this process, has just published its statistical atlas for 1995. Its president, Lewis T. Preston, observes that in the second half of the 20th century the average income per person in the developing countries has doubled.

This rising wealth does more than buy cars and television sets. It means that people live longer, are better educated and have better tools with which to work. The increased foreign competition that the United States is feeling has little to do with the new trade laws. People in dozens of poor countries are now capable of making the goods that used to be a monopoly shared only by producers in North America, Western Europe and Japan.

This new wealth is far from equally distributed. Income per person has hardly changed at all in sub-Saharan Africa from 1960 to the early 1990s. But in East Asia it has more than quadrupled, with most of the increase having come since 1978, when China launched the tremendous reforms that are changing the whole Pacific economy.

Since 1960 the gap has widened between the world's rich and most of the poor. The only large exceptions are in East Asia. The industrial democracies that were at the top of the income ladder

a generation ago are still there by a wider margin than ever over Latin America, Africa, the Middle East and South Asia. That may be about to change. In an optimistic forecast last spring, the World Bank said that it expects the developing countries, including the Africans, to grow faster than the major industrial countries over the coming decade.

That has not begun to happen yet, but it is useful to remember that the figures on income alone do not fully reflect the standard of living. There are other useful indicators — the average life span and the infant mortality rate. The World Bank's atlas notes that even in a country as poor as Bangladesh, life expectancy is up to 55 years. That is where it was in the United States in 1920 (it is now 76 years). The infant mortality rate in Kenya is 61 per 1,000 births, and in Guatemala it is 62 — lower than it was in America in 1930 (it is now 8 per 1,000 births).

While the world gets richer, more than a billion of the world's 5.6 billion people still live in dire poverty. Millions of children die every year of diseases that the world knows how to cure quickly and easily. Rising wealth means not only a better life but sometimes a life itself. That is a point to keep in mind when thinking about foreign aid.

— THE WASHINGTON POST.

Debate Foreign Policy

In the new year, President Bill Clinton confronts a new foreign policy reality — a Republican Congress. Republicans are less united on international issues than on their domestic agenda. But critics of specific administration policies now lead both houses of Congress and chair key committees. They have ample constitutional power to obstruct the president's agenda and advance their own. The Senate has the authority to confirm nominees and ratify treaties, and both houses can vote down or condition appropriations for everything from foreign aid and intelligence to troop deployments.

Sharper foreign policy debate can be healthy. The administration has not performed so brilliantly that it can afford to brush off useful criticism. No great philosophical differences divide Mr. Clinton from mainstream Republicans on many issues, and both parties need to consider how to reshape U.S. policies to a changed world. What are America's interests today? What are appropriate uses of U.S. military force? What is the right relationship between trade expansion and other objectives?

As a candidate, Mr. Clinton promised dramatic reversals on a few high-profile issues like Bosnia, China and Haiti. That rhetoric was soon abandoned. Aside from Haiti, he has generally kept George Bush's policies in place while focusing on domestic reform. A broad consensus is likely to continue over trade, the Middle East and some elements of arms control. Congressional challenges are likely over Bosnia, NATO, Russia, China, peacekeeping and foreign aid.

Republican leaders like foreign aid to welfare and demand that most aid not be related to security or political aims be cut. But the aid budget has already been cut by nearly a third in the last five years, and most foreign aid is related to security or political aims. Of the \$14 billion for foreign aid budget, \$5 billion is earmarked for Israel and Egypt and another \$1.2 billion goes to assist countries trying to move from socialism to capitalism. Most of the remainder goes to humanitarian, environmental and population programs that are the best insurance against new Somalia and Rwanda.

Republicans will press for more aggressive efforts to lift the arms embargo against the Bosnian government, efforts that the administration should try to harness and in some cases support. Washington should make clear to its European

allies that if they prevent the United Nations from lifting the embargo, the administration may be unable to resist congressional pressure for the United States to lift it independently. The administration should vigorously resist all calls for direct U.S. involvement in the war.

Many Republicans favor incorporating East European countries in NATO, which would needlessly isolate and provoke Moscow. Eastern Europe needs economic support and early access to the European Union far more urgently than it needs new military guarantees. The administration itself moved too hastily last year toward moving the NATO security umbrella eastward.

Mainstream Republicans favor continued support for reform and arms reduction in Russia, but want to make aid conditional on how Moscow treats the former Soviet republics. Such conditioning must be done carefully. America's security does not lie in isolating and humiliating Russia, but in encouraging its constructive participation in European and Asian affairs.

Republicans will also insist that Washington stand up more forcefully to Chinese bullying on human rights, trade, Taiwan and Tibet. A tougher line could help over time, but short-term progress is unlikely, with China already in the throes of a succession struggle.

International peacekeeping has been a favorite Republican target, even though the administration is now cautious to a fault about committing U.S. troops to such operations. Recent United Nations operations have been troubled, but peacekeeping is a cost-efficient tool for the United States. If the United Nations were so financially hobbled that it could no longer mount operations in support of policies that Washington favors, American forces might have to act alone, at far greater human and financial cost to the United States.

This administration still has a chance to leave a credible foreign policy legacy, but for the next two years it will have to do so in conjunction with mainstream Republicans like Senator Richard Lugar and Representative Benjamin Gilman. There will be unbridgeable differences. There should be substantive debate. But with good will and good luck, the result could be the kind of bipartisan foreign policy that politicians often rhapsodize about but rarely practice.

— THE NEW YORK TIMES.

Other Comment

Unfashionably Optimistic

In the 1990s, having survived recession, we [British] retain most of the major economic gains achieved under Margaret Thatcher without the vulgar excesses. The shortcomings of the government are an embarrassment, but American experience shows how readily a nation can prosper without taking any notice of its government. We are at peace, our roads, our health, our opportunities for holidays and foreign travel — yes, even our railways — are incomparably better than they were a generation ago. Television and, more importantly, education are significantly worse, but at least the availability of video makes it unnecessary to watch live television at all. We are a privileged and pampered generation, a reality

for which we need give our politicians no credit, but which we should not deny to each other. Pessimism may seem fashionable, but it is also fatuous.

— The Daily Telegraph (London).

A Victory With Ramifications

France's successful operation against the Algerian hijackers is one of the biggest victories against terrorism in years. The incident shows that the state can overcome any kind of terrorism provided it is determined and well-prepared. The position France assumed from the day the Air France airliner was hijacked is exemplary. After this episode, however, France has been transformed into an open target for the Armed Islamic Group of Algeria.

— Milliyet (Istanbul).

The CIA Needs Rethinking and the President's Ear

By Jim Hoagland

WASHINGTON — George Bush loved to wallow in raw intelligence reports. Bill Clinton quickly decided to ignore the stuff. Add this telling contrast to the scandal of the spy with three last names and you have a recipe for failure, frustration and now the departure of R. James Woolsey Jr. from his post as director of central intelligence.

Mr. Woolsey may be tempted to blame his downfall entirely on Aldrich Hazen Ames. That for-hire turncoat, who rolled up the agency's Moscow operation in the Reagan-Bush years, was ousted through tips from East European sources shortly after Mr. Woolsey took over the CIA for President Clinton.

Mr. Ames was a hot potato that Mr. Woolsey bobbed — no question. But the way in which the bobbles was made says a great deal about the problems of a president and a CIA director blessed with an inordinate brainpower but unable to figure out what they wanted the CIA to do and to beyond the Cold War.

Tough problem that, I suspect many of us would have temporized in the way the Clintonians have — keeping the U.S. intelligence community and defense organizations in a holding pattern. Cold War budgets have been trimmed but not slashed. This administration spends heavily to

avoid being labeled as soft on national security and to keep an insurance policy current in case reform fails in Russia. The Pentagon can ride out a long policy hiatus. But because of its high profile and bureaucratic vulnerability, the CIA is like a bicycle: To stay upright it has to keep moving, with clear presidential guidance.

Even with the increased congressional oversight of recent years, the CIA is the most "presidential" organization in the federal government located outside the confines of 1600 Pennsylvania Avenue.

Harry Truman decided that the agency's director would work directly for the president. Without a president's interest and direction in its specialized mission, the agency inevitably flounders, adrift in a sea of bureaucratic rivals posing as allies or customers. Without a president's protection, the CIA and its director are easy pickings for those with large grudges or ambitions.

By almost all accounts, Mr. Clinton does not find CIA reporting and analysis as useful as what he gets from "open sources" like newspapers and CNN. He went a year without seeing Mr. Woolsey in a one-on-one session. He quickly

dropped the daily agency briefing that Mr. Bush loved.

Mr. Clinton's real view of the CIA under Mr. Woolsey inadvertently crept into a Dec. 29 interview reported by The Associated Press. "In many areas of the world I can tell you we would be better served if we had more intelligence."

That was to defend intelligence spending at secret levels that experts estimate at about \$27 billion this year. The CIA gets 10 percent of that. The rest goes to the Pentagon, the National Security Agency and other components of the "intelligence community" that the CIA chief nominally heads as the president's director of the intelligence. The CIA gets the glory or the blame, but relatively little of the money.

Although an agency outsider — he was a lawyer and arms control expert — Mr. Woolsey was an agency insider and an intelligent Cold Warrior of long standing. His instinct was to co-opt or side with the agency on tough issues.

When Mr. Ames was uncovered, Mr. Woolsey at first resisted the notion that the agency's "culture" could be at fault for Mr. Ames having gone undetected for so long. Rather than lop off heads, he rapped knuckles. He temporized, argued with Congress in prickly fashion and then swung around, too late, to promise

to overhaul the agency. By then, Mr. Clinton had undermined Mr. Woolsey's authority to do that by appointing former Defense Secretary Les Aspin to head a bipartisan commission to study the agency and its future.

Mr. Woolsey's fate is a cautionary tale for the administration as a whole. Holding patterns are often wise opening moves, but they cannot be prolonged for important business through a presidential term. Mr. Woolsey's departure underlines the need for hard questions to be asked and answered about what America is getting for defense and intelligence outlays that still dwarf those of Russia and most other major powers combined.

Mr. Aspin's commission must start by honestly considering the question that Senator Daniel Patrick Moynihan has been asking for some time: Does the United States need the CIA at all? Probably. But it clearly does not need the overlapping, confusing and enormously expensive multiplication of intelligence gathering that still occurs throughout a government that does not, in fact, have centralized intelligence.

Soviet collapse and Russian implosion present America with a golden opportunity that must not be wasted.

The Washington Post.

Get a Pro With Bipartisan Support and Give the Director Time

By Larry Collins

LONDON — Jim Woolsey was pushed out of his job as director of the CIA by the White House in general and National Security Adviser Anthony Lake in particular.

I was told over lunch in Washington as early as Wednesday, Oct. 19, that Mr. Woolsey would be removed once the dust from the then forthcoming congressional elections had settled.

Mr. Woolsey was, in the first instance, a sacrificial lamb offered up by the White House and the furor in Congress and the media over the revelations of the spying of Aldrich Ames. That is patently unfair, inasmuch as both Mr. Ames's spying and the long investigation that led to his discovery occurred before Mr. Woolsey took over the agency.

Furthermore, as I was told last month by a former senior officer of the agency's old Soviet Division, one of the salient points overlooked by both Congress and the media in the Ames case is the fact that the agency even had 10 senior KGB employees for Mr. Ames to betray. The reality is, he maintained, that by the end of the Cold War the agency's penetration of the KGB — despite Mr. Ames's treason — was so all-pervasive that the Soviet service was sometimes jokingly referred to as "Langley East."

Mr. Woolsey's initial reaction to the Ames case was to try to limit the damage to his already severely shaken agency. He chose to hand out official reprimands to 11 agency officers for shortcomings in dealing with Mr. Ames. He was immediately castigated in the press and Congress for his own leadership shortcomings in not bringing the agency Old Boys more firmly to heel.

Apparently stung by that storm of criticism, Mr. Woolsey then overreacted to one of the consequences of his reprimands.

Among the officers he had admonished was a senior member of the Operations Directorate, Milton Beardon, whose "short-

coming" had been to put a written endorsement of Mr. Ames on one of the dozens of pieces of bureaucratic paper that passed his desk every week.

Mr. Woolsey's action in singling him out enraged a number of Mr. Beardon's colleagues. In an ill-advised kind of schoolboy prank, they awarded Mr. Beardon a plaque for his services to the agency in Afghanistan, a gesture clearly meant to put a little mud in the director's eye. Mr. Woolsey reacted by sacking everyone involved in that gesture.

They were, without exception, outstanding senior officers. At the apex of their service, two had had the primary responsibility for orchestrating what was arguably the CIA's greatest triumph in the Cold War, arming and guiding the mujahidin resistance to victory over the Red Army in Afghanistan. There is little doubt that the Soviet army's humiliating defeat there led swiftly and inexorably to the collapse of the Soviet empire.

Mr. Woolsey's gesture infuriated the agency's professionals and helped convince the White House that he could no longer effectively control the organization.

With the nomination of his

successor, the CIA will have had six directors in the 15 years since Jan. 1, 1980, an average tenure per director of two and a half years. And that figure is skewed by the fact that one director, Bill Casey, ran the agency for approximately six of those 15 years.

There was a time back in the days of men like Walter Bedell Smith, Allan Dulles and Richard Helms when CIA directors were put in place by bipartisan agreement and left to run their complex agency as administrators came and went. President Jimmy Carter's appointment of Stansfield Turner changed that. It was an effort to "politicize" the director's post by making him more directly responsible to the White House's political agenda. Since then, political acceptability to the White House has become the standard by which directors are chosen.

The consequence of that has been, first, a growing mistrust between the agency's professional cadre and the politically appointed director and his immediate staff in their seventh floor office suite. The agency's professionals will, of course, answer a director's questions — provided the questions are precise and

highly specific. But in the last decade they have become less and less ready to volunteer highly secret information unless they absolutely have to.

When William Webster had the agency, his former FBI subordinate John Lawn, administrator of the Drug Enforcement Administration, told me he called the director to ask him a question about Manuel Antonio Noriega's ties to the agency. "Jack," Mr. Webster replied, "I've been asking the same question myself for the last three months and I can't get a straight answer out of anyone over here."

No director of the CIA, however able, can be expected to master the intricacies of the agency in 18 months. Mr. Woolsey, it was argued in Washington, had not turned the agency around, prepared it adequately for its role in the new, more diverse and complex post-Cold War environment in which it must now live. But how could he have accomplished that in the time allotted to him?

Turning around massive government organizations like the CIA takes more than inspired insight. It takes time.

In 1989, with the fall of the Berlin Wall, the agency decided to join in the war on narcotics traffic, an activity to which it had once been repelled to close its eyes on occasion.

There were glitches in the beginning. In 1990, satellite photo analysts mistook pepper plants for pot in their photos and suddenly doubled their estimates of Mexico's marijuana crop. To-day, however, the agency's narcotics center is beginning to perform handsomely both by coordinating worldwide drug intelligence and turning up targets for law enforcement.

From the moment he took over the agency, Mr. Woolsey was well aware of the new array of threats that the CIA and the United States faced: drug trafficking, international organized

crime, massive laundering of illegal money and the societal corruption that such money can engender; the arc of Islamic fundamentalism stretching from the Atlantic beaches of Morocco to 30 million Muslims in northern China increasingly attracted by the message of the mullahs; the extensive counterfeiting of American currency most probably being done in Iran with at least the tacit approval of the government. But to apply its very real capabilities to those problems will be a time-consuming learning experience for the CIA. The agency grew up in a certain kind of world, in which its task was to focus on states with military establishments, power structures and bureaucracies not altogether dissimilar from America's own. Such structures do not exist in the new areas of concern — in illegal business and criminal enterprises, in the secret world of the Cali cartel and the Mafia, or in the mosques of Islam.

It is vital that both the White House and Congress agree that Mr. Woolsey's successor will not be a transitional, political appointee designated to warm the director's chair until the 1996 presidential election. The agency and the nation need someone in that position who will be given the time and bipartisan support that an earlier generation of CIA directors enjoyed.

It should be understood at the outset that the next director will be in that job through the 1996 elections and the first term of whatever administration comes out of them. Without that kind of backing and understanding, no one is going to be able to determine what the CIA's role in the 21st century should be and prepare the agency to fulfill it.

The writer is author of "Black Eagles," which deals with the CIA, cocaine traffic and Central America in the mid-1980s. He contributed this comment to the International Herald Tribune.



Chechnya Is Bad but Resumed War in Tajikistan Would Be Worse

By Andrew Meier

SAN FRANCISCO — Unlike Russia's secessionist crisis in Chechnya, the danger of a collapse of Tajikistan peace talks and renewal of the Tajik civil war — by far the bloodiest in any of the former Soviet republics — cannot be dismissed as an internal Russian matter.

U.S. policy should aim to develop the small Central Asian republic of Tajikistan as an independent member of the world community. It is a mountain country of 5.6 million surrounded by Afghanistan, China, Kyrgyzstan and Uzbekistan. From the time war broke out in May 1992 until a cease-fire took hold this October, Washington has been surprisingly silent.

America has real grounds for concern. In Tajikistan, three years after the Soviet Union crumbled, Russia has succeeded in resurrecting a piece of the old empire. Although Tajikistan, ravaged and nearly broke, is nominally independent, last year it unilaterally accepted Russia's bear hug. The problem is that Moscow offers protection Sicilian-style.

Seventy percent of Tajikistan's state budget comes from Russia. 25,000 Russian "peacekeepers" are there to protect what President Boris Yeltsin calls Russia's border with Afghanistan, and the defense minister is a Russian general. The Russians' main mission is to keep fighters, weapons and drugs from entering from Afghanistan.

While the Tajiks have no oil, such neighbors as Kazakhstan and Uzbekistan do. Chevron and other American companies have invested millions of dollars in developing Central Asia's oil and gas fields. Oil executives would be displeased to see their investments disappear if the conflict resumed and spread.

Tajikistan, its economy wounded and political repression abounding, needs Western sup-

port for reconstruction. It was always the poorest republic. But even though the war has taken perhaps 50,000 lives and forced more than 650,000 to flee, since early 1992 Tajikistan has received only \$96 million in U.S. aid. Of this, \$61 million has been in food shipments (mostly wheat), \$15 million in private donations and the rest in technical assistance.

J. Brian Atwood, administrator of the Agency for International Development, said last month that his agency "is the state of the art of preventive diplomacy." Yet AID has cut its technical assistance to Tajikistan from \$18 million in fiscal 1994 to \$9 million in the current, 1995 fiscal year.

Tajikistan's autocratic regime partly has its human rights record to blame for unwillingness in the West to provide aid. The record of "ethnic cleansing" is long and vicious, in the opinion of Human Rights Watch and Amnesty International. The war and its aftermath were marked by atrocities on both sides.

When I visited in April, one pro-government fighter told me, "No one paid much attention to any Geneva conventions." Whole villages, burned and bulldozed, were reduced to parched fields.

The Tajiks' truce, punctuated by occasional skirmishes, is uneasy. The cease-fire that began in October has been extended to Feb. 6. A fourth round of peace talks between the government of President Imoh Rakhmonov and an alliance of opposition factions is due in Moscow late this month.

The talks were arranged by Secretary-General Boutros Boutros Ghali of the United Nations and his special envoy Ramiro Pizarro Ballon. By early this year, a total of 40 UN cease-fire observers, authorized by the Security Council last month, will have arrived.

When Tajikistan became independent in 1991, it had no national identity and no security forces, and the gross national product depended almost wholly on cotton. Since the republic lacked a unifying ethnic identity, no nationalist movement proved strong enough to fill the ideological vacuum left by the demise of Soviet rule.

In the political vacuum that broke out, on one side were the people in the provinces of Leninabad (now renamed Khujand) and Kulyab, who ran the government during the Soviet era. On the other side were Garmis and Pamiris, desperately poor peoples who saw an opportunity for a share in the central government after being shouldered aside and maltreated during decades of Communist rule. They found allies with intellectuals and others in the capital, Dushanbe, who wanted more Islam, more democracy and personal power. Clan and regional loyalties played an important role in the fighting.

In 1992, after military intervention by Russia and Uzbekistan, the Leninabad-Kulyab alliance triumphed, and it has sought to legitimize its rule ever since.

On Nov. 6, the regime, now headed by Mr. Rakhmonov, a die-hard Communist, staged a presidential election and won. It was hardly democratic, since all opposition parties were banned. Mr. Rakhmonov ran against his ambassador to Moscow, who charged fraud after the votes were counted.

Not surprisingly, the Tajiks have few friends in Washington. In October, Representatives Robert Andrews, Democrat of New Jersey, and Benjamin Gilman, Republican of New York, co-sponsored a successful resolution linking aid to an improvement in the regime's human rights record.

A handful of American organi-

zations have given food and medical relief. The financier George Soros has donated \$1 million mostly to help returning refugees. And the United Nations has asked for nearly \$30 million to finance humanitarian needs.

All U.S. humanitarian aid should continue unconditionally. But grants for economic development should be linked to emergence of a rule of law and respect for human rights norms.

With Senator Jesse Helms, a foe of foreign aid, soon to be chairman of the Foreign Relations Committee, President Bill Clinton will have an uphill problem trying to help the Tajiks — if, in his opinion, they merit it. Clearly, bromides about building democracy would be absurd. But, with the lesson of Bosnia in mind, he can help assure peace by giving

his support to the talks in Moscow. When I was visiting the Tajiks, I saw how important it was for America to try to check renewed Russian imperialism.

One day I was squeezed in an elevator in the Hotel Tajikistan, in the capital, with Russian officers. It stopped on a middle floor and a timid Tajik clutching Red Cross provisions peered in. "Don't worry," a colonel assured him. "There's room here for all of us." The Tajik, who appreciated the dangers of overloading Soviet-made elevators and assenting to Russian assurances, begged off. But the colonel's invitation, reflecting the old Soviet mentality, lingered in the air.

Mr. Meier writes frequently on Russian affairs. He contributed this comment to The New York Times.

IN OUR PAGES: 100, 75 AND 50 YEARS AGO

1895: 'Not One Inch'

SHANGHAI — [From our special correspondent:] I learn on good authority that the Chinese Government does not intend to cede one inch of territory. It will offer to buy back Port Arthur. The Japanese have again recoiled. Wei-Hai-Wei, but have not yet attacked that town. Heavy reinforcements of so-called soldiers have been sent to the Chinese General Sung. That officer has been joined by Generals Chong and Yih with 12,000 troops.

1920: Angry Motorists

LONDON — In Dublin a new form of violence has appeared: the smashing of automobiles. Seven cars have been wrecked as a protest against the new order that motorists must have special permits. A trade-union committee appointed to deal with the order

has canceled its own agreement allowing doctors to drive their own cars and has called a strike of men handling motor spirit.

1945: Saboteurs Foiled

NEW YORK — An alert seventeen-year-old boy was credited by the Federal Bureau of Investigation today [Jan. 2] with spotting two saboteurs who were landed by U-boat on November 29 near the buoys off Hancock Point, Maine. The men came ashore in a rubber boat at night after the Nazi submarine had lain off the Maine coast for a week. J. Edgar Hoover, director of the F.B.I., gave credit to the boy, Harvard Hodgekiss, for detecting the Nazi spies. Hodgekiss was returning from a dance when he saw two strangers walking along a road. He followed them until they disappeared into the woods. He then told his parents, who notified the F.B.I.

International Herald Tribune
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S.A. au capital de 1 200 000 F. RCS Nanterre B 32921126. Commission Paritaire No. 6135
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OPINION

Changing Laws of Gravity Pull 'Foreign Affairs' East

By Thomas L. Friedman

TOKYO — A "Foreign Affairs" column now returns to The New York Times. "Foreign Affairs" is actually the paper's oldest column. It was begun in 1937 by the remarkable Anne O'Hare McCormick and was originally called "In Europe." In those days "In Europe" was foreign affairs for most Americans, and it seemed perfectly natural that the paper's one overseas columnist was rooted on the European Continent.

History may place the most important development of this half-century in Asia.

Both factors have led me to start my column from Japan. While I have no intention of calling my column "In Asia," the thought did cross my mind. Let's face it, when the history of the late 20th century is written, the most important event may not be the reconstruction of Europe, the Cold War or the collapse of communism, but rather the rapid modernization in one generation of 2 billion people from Japan to the border of India. Never have so many raised their standard of living so far so fast.

I was in Singapore recently when its government decided that to keep attracting top-quality cabinet ministers, it would pay them about two-thirds of the average salary of the country's senior doctors, bankers and CEOs. That comes to \$765,000 a year for the prime minister and \$400,000 for the others.

No wonder an American diplomat in Hong Kong told me: "I go to parties here and without fail I am the poorest person at every event. The BMWs and Rolls-Royces roll in one after the other, and then I show up with my little Japanese car. During my first tour here a decade ago, I felt like Gulliver among the Lilliputians. We represented the future. Now I feel like I am brought along to parties as a potted plant for decoration."

Yet, Walter Mondale, the U.S. ambassador to Japan, complains that many American business, edu-

cational and news organizations "still don't get it, still don't grasp how rich and dynamic this region is." He should know.

The historic residence of the American ambassador in Tokyo is being restored by a Japanese construction company because there were no American contractors there skilled enough to do the delicate job. A new study by the Mansfield Center found that there are still four times as much news about America on Japanese television as news of Japan on American television.

But if we Americans are still smug about Asians, always waiting for their bubble to burst, it is nothing compared with their smugness toward America. They think they can defy the laws of gravity — that economic consequences won't have political consequences. You cannot have a conversation in Asia without being verbally caned over how flawed America has become and how superior is the "Asian Way." Their smugness, though, is as misplaced as ours.

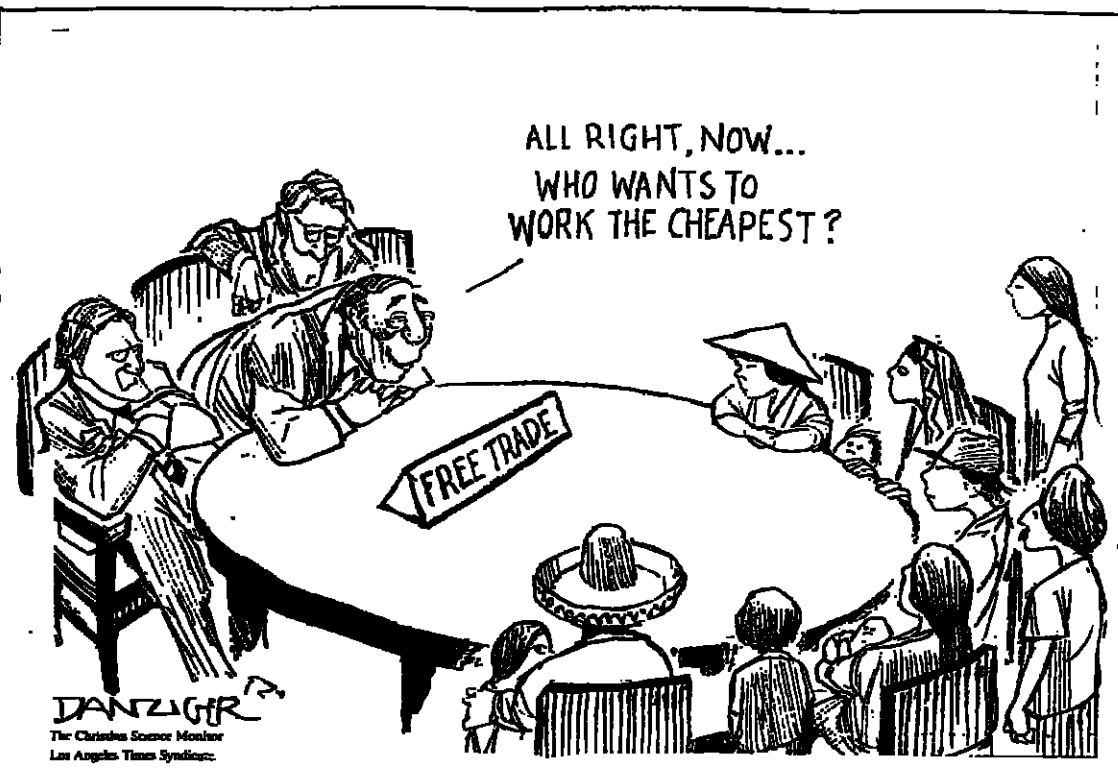
How long can Asian governments keep their people so regimented and focused on export growth when their middle classes are growing so wealthy? Take Singapore. Thanks to its stern government, it is clean, rich and seriously boring. Singapore is a shopping mall with passport controls. Any wonder American televangelists and Oprah Winfrey are increasingly popular out there?

How long can Japan's government keep telling its youth that they have to accept lower wages and live in apartments as big as my garage so that Japanese companies can put all their profits into expanding markets abroad? How long will Japanese consumers pay \$70 for a watermelon because Japan protects its highly inefficient food industry from foreign competition?

How long is China's leadership, the smugness of all since it forced President Bill Clinton to eat crow on human rights, going to be able to keep the lid on a country that is economically becoming North Carolina and politically still North Korea? And how long will Asians tolerate the fact that the economic boom has left them with five of the seven most polluted cities in the world?

The answer to all of the above is: not much longer, and that's why I chose to start here. Asia is not only going to be the world's biggest business story in the coming years. The economic revolution here is well under way, but the political revolution has just begun.

The New York Times



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

The Tide Lifts All Ships

Regarding "Selective Protection Can Be Justified" (Opinion, Dec. 26) by Gregory Clark:

With the advent of the World Trade Organization, protectionists like Gregory Clark still miss the point of free trade.

The free trade argument, that "everyone gains" is not limited to the West. What Mr. Clark wants to preserve is exactly what free traders seek to address: the distribution of world gross domestic product. In 1989, 83 percent of total world GDP was distributed among 20 percent of the population. The poorest 20 percent had 1.4 percent of GDP to divide among themselves. The average Swedish family (I am Swedish) has two children, and our consumption is equal to that of a 20-child family globally.

In the long run, free global trade gives the developing countries a fair chance to achieve true development on their own terms. If these countries are more aggressive and dynamic than the more developed countries, so be it. The West does not need a breathing space, it needs a wake-up call. Instead of preserving global inequalities, perhaps we should follow New Zealand's example and simply lower our standard of living. It is painful to do so, but it is also painful for much of the world population to live in extreme poverty. As Gandhi said, "There is

enough for everyone's need, but not for everyone's greed."

By establishing the World Trade Organization and giving it full support, the West will not bring equality to the world, but it definitely takes a step in the right direction.

FREDRIK SUNESSON, Vienna.

European Jewry

In Joan Dupont's enthusiastic and generous review (Nov. 29) of my book "A Chosen Few: The Resurrection of European Jewry" there are a few thoughts attributed to me which I should correct for the record.

I do not spend more space on Pierre Mendès-France because, although he was a very important figure in French history, he was somewhat marginal in Jewish history, which was my subject. There are a number of good books on this great French figure. I was not directing any "put-down" at him. The point I made was that although he went to great lengths to declare his assimilation and impartiality, he remained a target of anti-Semitism.

The French Republican idea, later expressed by the Jews of the German Enlightenment, that Jews would be better liked if they did not act so differently has been repeatedly disproved. That is not to say that I am "critical of assimilated Jews." I am an assimilated Jew.

I would estimate that about 90 percent of the Jews I write about are

assimilated, which is probably just about the real ratio. Ms. Dupont writes that Jews "have always been a significant part of the French scene," but the point is that this is true of Europe in general, perhaps most notably Germany. So the idea of assimilation assuming anti-Semitism is obviously a failure.

Unlike a few of the people I write about, I do not see this as a valid criticism of assimilation. Jews, like everyone else, have a right to be whatever they want to be.

As for Mr. Mendès-France, I have always admired him not because he was a Jew who suffered under Vichy but because he so courageously undertook decolonization. Jews do achieve things besides suffering.

MARK KURLANSKY, New York.

A Bully Job on the Bulge

Regarding the report "We Can Still Lose War" (Dec. 19):

Congratulations to Rick Atkinson for his masterful retrospective on the Battle of the Bulge. The participants in that battle (or most any battle, for that matter) were the last to know what had gone on because of the well-known "fog of war." As historian for the 100th Infantry Division Association, may I say that Mr. Atkinson's careful analysis benefits not only the general reader but the veterans who fought there.

FRANKLIN L. GURLEY, Romanens, Switzerland.

Truth for Chicago Inmates On Their Power to Change

By William Raspberry

WASHINGTON — Jesse Jackson spent Christmas Day, as the Quakers used to urge, speaking "truth to power."

It was an unaccustomed truth, spoken to an unsuspecting power. It was Mr. Jackson's annual message to inmates at Cook County Jail in Chicago.

The truth: Those inmates of America's prisons — disproportionate-

MEANWHILE

ately young black men — have the power to change America: its economics, its politics, its attitude.

"In the '60s," the former Chicagoan now living in Washington told 600 inmates, "our response to oppression — even without civil rights — was the No. 1 cause of civil rights and social justice progress. Because we had the moral authority, we were able to end apartheid both in the United States and in South Africa."

"Today, our civil wrongs constitute the No. 1 threat to our progress. The surrender to drugs, dropouts and violence, the abandoned families and alienated children are not only eroding our base, they are also fueling the politics of fear, anger and repression."

The power: "Three strikes and you're out" is driven by you. The \$24 billion crime bill is driven by you. Your behavior, or a fundamental change in your behavior, will determine much of America's future. You have the power."

It was not, of course, what inmates are accustomed to hearing. Generally they are excoriated as social vermin, fit only for being caged or exterminated, or else pitied as victims of social forces over which they have little control. There's truth in both versions.

But there is greater truth — redemptive truth — in what Mr. Jackson preached. He did what I call the compulsories — the need for improving the schools; for "green-lining" the inner-city areas in which banks refuse to make loans; for doing the things that governments should do for the poor and the weak.

And then: "How many of you have wives and children at home on welfare? Your child doesn't need welfare or an orphanage; your child needs a daddy and a mother at home. You have the power to change welfare."

You have the power to change violence and crime just by changing your mind. You have the power to change the gun market, the drug market, the family structure of

America. You have the power to save our children.

"There is a 75 percent recidivism rate in Cook County. If you can cut that back to 50 percent, you would change the criminal justice system. Cut it back to 30 percent, and you would just about put the prison system out of business. And you can do it if you change from the victim complex of self-pity and accept a new identity. The key to change is in your mind, in your heart. Malcolm turned a jail cell into a classroom. Racism didn't change for him; the job situation didn't change for him; the police didn't change. Nothing changed but him."

The message is important — not because anyone can expect one Christmas Day speech to change very many lives but because young people need to be taught and reminded of the power they have over their own lives.

And so do those in authority. One of the remarkable phenomena of our time is the persistence of the belief among those in power that we can coerce people into decent behavior if only we make the punishment tough enough. The most obvious result of that policy is not a safer society but the diversion of more and more tax dollars to prison cells.

We keep imagining that the problem is that young people are not frightened enough, so we keep toughening criminal sanctions to the point where America's national incarceration rate is the highest in the Western world. The real problem, as Mr. Jackson reminded on what was at least his 26th Christmas visit to Cook County Jail, is that the young people aren't hopeful enough.

They don't see that they need not be limited and defined by discrimination and hard economics any more than were the heroes of the '60s. They don't see that they can, even after a disastrous beginning, make something of themselves. They don't see that they have it within their means to transform not merely their own lives but society.

They have the power — and that's the truth.

Washington Post Writers Group.

Letters intended for publication should be addressed "Letters to the Editor" and contain the writer's signature, name and full address. Letters should be brief and are subject to editing. We cannot be responsible for the return of unsolicited manuscripts.

GENERAL NEWS

Militants Posing as Police Kill 11 in Egypt

Reuters

ASYUT, Egypt — Suspected Muslim militants disguised as police shot and killed eight policemen and wounded at least two others in four separate attacks in Egypt on Monday, security sources said.

Three civilians also were killed, and four others were injured in the attacks, which took place within one hour of each other near the Nile Valley town of Mallawi, 260 kilometers (160 miles) south of Cairo, the sources said.

The death toll on Monday was one of the highest in a single day since political violence began in Egypt early in 1992. Muslim militants are waging a violent campaign to overthrow the government of President Hosni Mubarak and set up a strict Islamic state.

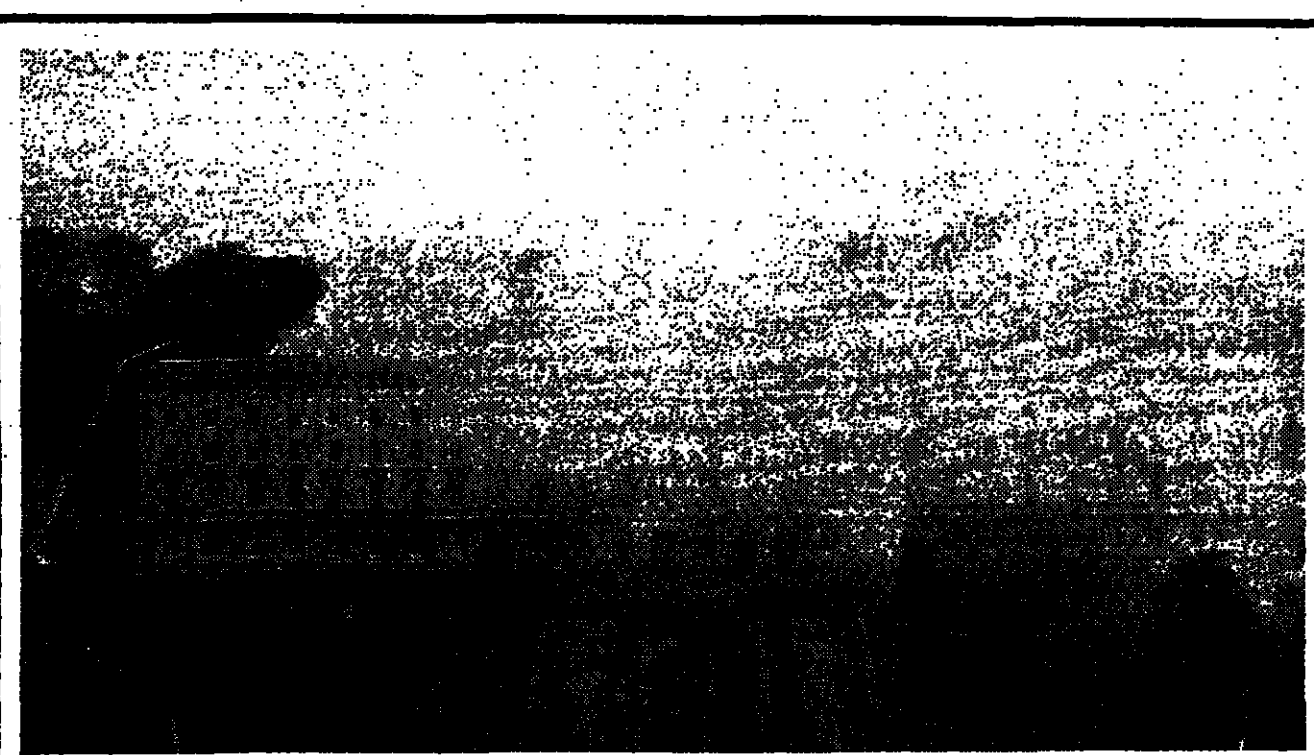
In all of the attacks on Monday, gunmen stopped buses on the main road out of Mallawi to search for police officers on their way to work.

In one attack, gunmen ordered passengers off a public bus and shot and killed five policemen by the roadside. Two civilians, a newspaper vendor and a security guard, were killed by stray bullets, the security sources said.

In separate attacks, gunmen boarded three minibuses and killed three policemen after examining the identity papers of passengers, the sources said. A teacher on board one of the buses was also killed and four other civilians were wounded.

The officers who were slain included conscripts, guards and members of the secret police. The gunmen took their weapons and escaped.

The attacks bring to nine the number of policemen killed by militants in the first two days of 1995 and to 670 those killed in political violence since 1992. Security officials in Mallawi suspect that the gunmen are members of Egypt's largest militant organization, the Islamic Group, which has been targeting policemen in southern Egypt for two years.



Crispin Rowdwell/Reuters

Site of Ulster Peace Talks Burns

Smoke pouring Monday from Stormont, Northern Ireland's old Parliament. Fire destroyed the debating chamber, which was undergoing renovation. Stormont long was a symbol of Protestant domination and now is the setting for peace talks on ending the province's 25-year guerrilla conflict. Up to 120 fire fighters fought the blaze. "There is nothing to suggest that it is malicious," a fire brigade spokesman said. No one was hurt. Last month, British officials opened talks at Stormont, with separate delegations of representatives from Republican and Protestant extremists. The exploratory talks resume Jan. 12.

AFRICA: Dictators Flourish as the West Sends Aid Without Demanding Political Reform

Continued from Page 1

May following the country's first national election in which the black majority was allowed to participate. Elections in Malawi in May ousted Africa's longest-serving dictator, Hastings Kamuzu Banda, while belatedly last October in Mozambique completed a UN-brokered peace process to end a 16-year civil war.

But ethnic slaughter in Rwanda, renewed anarchy in Somalia and seemingly intractable civil war in Sudan, Liberia and Angola have raised the possibility that Africa's future will bring the descent of other nations into perpetual conflict, with the outside world unable to prevent it.

Even some of those considered bright rising stars in the continent's political firmament have disappointed reform advocates. President Yoweri Museveni of Uganda had emerged as the darling of the World Bank and Western embassies for ushering in a prolonged period of political stability following the

dictatorships of Idi Amin and Milton Obote, but Mr. Museveni has shown he is no democrat. He brooks no talk of pluralism in a Uganda that he essentially runs in autocratic fashion.

In Zambia, Frederick Chi-

has been plagued by the resignations of many of its reform advocates, who say the president has lost his direction.

"The war against dictatorships has hardly been won," the Kenyan scholar Michael Chege, now at Harvard University,

With Western interest in Africa waning, the 'Big Men' are finding it easier to pursue their policies of political repression free from foreign pressures to reform.

Inba was seen three years ago as the harbinger of Africa's new democratic trend when he defeated the longtime president, Kenneth Kaunda, in that country's first multiparty elections. But Mr. Chiluba presides over a government widely considered corrupt and incompetent.

Allegations of drug dealing have surrounded high-level officials, and Mr. Chiluba's party

wrote in Current History magazine.

In countries such as Cameroon, Kenya, Togo, Gabon and Sudan, Mr. Chege wrote, "the heads of government have clung to power through a combination of brute force, manipulation of gullible opposition parties, bribery, crafty exploitation of ethnic loyalties and cosmetic constitutional re-

forms to appease Western donors who demand 'good governance' as a precondition for further development aid."

For a time, it looked as if Western donors, particularly the United States, would insist on political and economic reform as a condition for granting the aid that props up Africa's autocrats. At the start of the decade, terms such as "good governance," "democratization" and "transparency" set the criteria for determining which African states would qualify for continued international largess.

In late 1991, Kenya's aid was suspended pending economic reforms and a shift to political pluralism. Malawi later suffered a similar aid cutoff that forced Mr. Banda, the longtime dictator, to call the multiparty election that was his undoing.

But Africa's strongmen have proven adept at creating the facade of reform without genuine change. Elections are called, then hijacked. Opposition political parties are legalized, but

Iran, Fighting 'Decay,' To Ban Satellite Dishes

Compiled by Our Staff From Dispatches

NICOSIA — The Iranian Parliament has given final approval to a ban on satellite television dishes, a triumph for hard-line clerics who want to curb increasingly popular Western shows they view as promoting moral decay.

The bill, approved Sunday, prohibits the unauthorized sale, manufacture and distribution of satellite dishes. It now goes for review to the Council of Guardians, where approval is expected within 15 days.

It empowers the Ministry of Islamic Guidance and Culture "to safeguard cultural boundaries of the country and of its families against destructive and indecent satellite programs."

Roof-top dishes have proliferated in Iranian cities, pulling down channels offering soap operas, pop-music videos and foreign newscasts, not to mention nudity in a country where women must be veiled from head to toe in public.

There are an estimated 250,000 satellite-dish users in Tehran alone.

The ban reflects the ascendancy of mullahs who are campaigning to rejuvenate religious zeal in the Islamic republic of 60 million people.

Many young people do not remember the 1979 Islamic revolution that brought the fundamentalist regime to power. They grew up during economic hard times and an eight-year war against Iraq.

The ban also was a landmark because the home was generally considered off-limits to the authorities' strict enforcement of centuries-old Islamic codes of behavior.

Once it becomes law, owners will have 30 days to dispose of their dishes.

President Hashemi Rafsanjani had allowed bland Western films and music on the state television and radio network, arguing that they were needed to spice up programming rich on scholarly instruction and religious recitation.

But Mr. Rafsanjani's failure to turn around an oil-dependent economy has eroded his popularity.

(AP, Reuters)

ISRAEL: Expansion Halted

Continued from Page 1

political battleground — may be the next ones on the line.

However events unfold at Efrat, home to about 6,000 Israelis, many of them transplanted Americans, the political battle underlined the pivotal role that settlements play at this stage of the troubled peace negotiations.

On paper, discussions about the future of 130,000 Jewish settlers are to be set aside for a while, though no later than May 1996, when all of the delicate matters like Jerusalem's ultimate status. But the reality has been that settlements are an inescapable issue, even now.

Mr. Arafat and Mr. Rabin are trying to extend Palestinian self-rule throughout the West Bank, taking it beyond the Gaza Strip and the small West Bank enclave of Jericho. That involves Palestinian elections and a companion withdrawal of Israeli forces from Palestinian towns and villages. But with Jewish settlements sitting next door to many of those Arab towns, Mr. Rabin worries about how he can protect them if he may no longer keep his soldiers posted nearby.

Because of this basic security concern, negotiations have bumped along inconclusively, with a new round scheduled for Tuesday in Cairo.

And as time passes with no real change on the ground, West Bank Palestinians have grown increasingly restive. The Efrat expansion toward Al-Khader, an Arab town of 4,000 people five kilometers to the north, became a focus for their frustration and a target of political protest that has been joined by leftist Israeli groups like Peace Now.

3 Police Deaths Reported

Israeli troops shot and killed three Palestinian policemen in a clash in the Gaza Strip on Monday, a Palestinian policeman told Reuters. In two other incidents on Monday, soldiers also killed three armed Palestinians in the occupied West Bank. The policeman said that Israeli soldiers, patrolling near Beit Hanoun in the Gaza Strip, had fired on Palestinian police, apparently mistaking them for militants. Israeli radio said the soldiers had opened fire after shots were fired at them.

'Carlos' Charged In 1983 Bombing

Agence France-Press

PARIS — The international terrorist "Carlos the Jackal" was charged Monday in connection with the 1983 bombing at a Marseille railroad station that killed two people and injured 34, judicial sources reported here.

Carlos, whose real name is Ilich Ramirez Sanchez, has been in custody in Paris since being extradited from Sudan last August.

He was charged with murder, attempted murder, damage to property and explosives offenses.

The charges are the latest to be formally served on the Venezuelan-born terrorist.

Carlos is already under indictment in connection with a Paris bomb attack in March 1982 that killed one person and injured 63, and with the bombing of a Paris-Toulouse train in the same month, which killed five.

Reality in Clothing: Ode to Claire McCardell

By Bernadine Morris
New York Times Service

NEW YORK — Fashion presentations today tend to be produced on a giant scale. Even the introduction of a designer collection for the next season has moved from the intimacy of a manufacturer's showroom to a tent or an amphitheater seating thousands.

The cut or the fabric of an outfit is hardly the selling point, since the details cannot be seen beyond the first few rows. The music, the choreography and the lighting supersede the clothes. The mood is that of a Broadway musical.

Those who assemble fashion exhibitions feel similarly compelled to put on the blitz. It is therefore somewhat astonishing to come upon a small, modest, straightforward presentation of clothes by Claire McCardell, the finest U.S. designer, at the Parsons School of Design's exhibition center in the Greenwich Village section of New York City.

The clothes have not been gussied up. They emit an air of reality, as if real people can wear them as they go about their daily lives. What is most astonishing is the fact that most of the styles are more than 40 years old. McCardell died in 1958 at the age of 53.

Called "Claire McCardell: Redefining

Modernism," the show has been assembled by the Parsons faculty as one of the events celebrating the school's 100th anniversary and the 75th anniversary of the New School for Social Research, with which Parsons has been affiliated since 1970. McCardell graduated from Parsons in 1928.

McCardell, a major force in design starting in 1940, helped propel the American concept of easy, simple dressing onto the world fashion stage. She used down-home fabrics like denim and calico and decorated them with top stitching and in blue jeans, bows that actually functioned as fastenings and hardware clasps taken from work clothes.

She never used a zipper down the back because, she said, a woman living alone would need to be a contortionist to close it. She always put pockets in her clothes, as much to provide a place to put the hands as to offer a place to store things.

When Issey Miyake, the world's foremost futurist designer, came to New York this December, he went to see the McCardell exhibition before the exhibition was mounted; he has long admired her work, he said, and was taken with the softness and fluidity of her designs.

Nicholas Knightly, one of London's newest and youngest swinging designers, says the two designers of the past whom he most admires are Madeleine Vionnet,

the Paris couturier, and McCardell.

A vignette of clothes from contemporary American designers is included in the Parsons exhibition, and it shows that the McCardell message is still being heard. The designers shown are Donna Karan, Isaac Mizrahi, Anna Sui, Adri, Michael Kors and Jeffrey Banks, as adventurous a group as could be assembled.

The curator, Kohle Yohannan, 26, explains the title "Redefining Modernism" by saying that the clothes "speak to popular culture 50 years later."

Well, that is acceptable. But the McCardell secret is simply good design. And her basic tenet, that clothes should be comfortable, is one that designers disregard at their peril.

FOR fashion has its forward and backward thrusts, but the overall direction of modern clothes is toward practicality. McCardell's great accomplishment is that she made comfort and wearability look stylish.

Her first big success, the monk dress in 1938, was a loose, free flow of wool jersey that she anchored at the waist with a stiff wide belt or a series of spaghetti-like jersey tubes. Developing into the tent dress, it has become a staple of contemporary fashion, belted or not.

Equally popular was her shirt dress with a pleated bodice and a small tie at

the neck. So was her "popover," a wrapped dress introduced in 1942 to wear around the house or to the grocery store. First shown in denim to sell for \$6.95, it was repeated in more luxurious fabrics at prices up to \$26.

McCardell's work recalls the time when American fashion was good and cheap. American manufacturers were prepared to make inexpensive clothes long before European houses got on the ready-to-wear track.

During World War II, when French sources were unavailable, Americans began developing their own style. Designers like Clare Potter, Tom Brigrance, Vera Maxwell and Donald Brooks helped develop the sportswear style. McCardell was clearly the leader of a significant school.

Christian Dior's Edwardian New Look in 1947 and André Courrèges's space-age styles of 1962 deflected attention from the naturalism of the American look. Still, the American designers best known abroad today, people like Karan, Calvin Klein and Ralph Lauren, are part of the sportswear tradition.

The Parsons exhibition serves a useful function in showing where it all began. Neither the clothes nor the presentation is elaborate. Drawings by Bill Rancitelli, who teaches design illustration at Parsons, serve as backdrops.



Bill Cunningham/The New York Times
Claire McCardell dresses, on view in New York.

Interiors for Changing Fashions

By Fiona Brandon

PARIS — The fashion houses Kenzo, Esprit, Joseph, and Joan & David have one thing in common: the Czech-born architect Eva Jiricna. Over the past 15 years, Jiricna has used her designing talents to revolutionize the interiors of their shops.

"When you are designing for something that changes as quickly as fashion, you can't change the environment as quickly as the collections," Jiricna said. "Among other things, you need something timeless."

She combines glass and steel in a poetic yet disciplined style to create timeless interiors.

"Materials are like people," said Jiricna. "They have an image and a character. For me glass and steel are like best friends."

Working out of a 19th-century house in the West End of London, Jiricna has become renowned throughout Europe and the United States as a designer of high-tech shops with sensational staircases.

The recently opened Joan & David shop on Bond Street in London is no exception. Customers are easily lured through the glass doors without frames to climb the translucent glass staircase that rests miraculously upon a spiral ball.

"There have been many great architectural staircases in history, but in the present century it became more common to shut the staircase away, literally, in a cupboard, and cover it with a carpet," said Jiricna. "It resulted in the under-exploitation of the most unique three-dimensional object in any interior of more than one floor."

A renovated Joan & David shop on Rue Saint-Honoré in Paris has opened, with Jiricna's glass staircase suspended by stainless steel cables. It is rivaled only by Jiricna's innovative curving steel-and-aluminum double stair built in 1987 for the Legends nightclub in London and the stainless steel-and-glass triple stair finished in 1989 for the designer Joseph's store at 26 Sloan Street in London.

Jiricna began her career designing for a cement factory after graduating from the Technical University of Prague in 1962. At the time she was heavily influenced by

ish citizen, and this fall was honored by Queen Elizabeth with the medal of Commander of the British Empire for her contribution to interiors.

During the swinging '60s she became acquainted with the Moroccan-born couturier Joseph. After designing Joseph's smart South Molton Street store in London, her career as a high-tech designer took off. An article on the store was published in Design magazine and the work brought her critical acclaim.

In 1986 Jiricna opened Eva Jiricna Architects, whose projects to date include 16 shops for Joan & David, two for Esprit, three for Birger Christensen stores and a boutique for Kenzo. She has also designed a London apartment for the rock group the Thompson Twins, exhibition stands for Levi Strauss & Co. and hairdressing salons for Vidal Sassoon.

Jiricna is not shy about giving her opinions on modern architecture.

"Never tell anyone how to move forward," she says. "You can criticize someone's work all you want, but you can't take away their freedom to build in any way possible or you damage free thinking."

When asked about her feelings on Prince Charles's assertion that there ought to be a return to more classical architecture, Jiricna replied, "In my opinion students should be taught history and only history."

"But the future should be open to the imagination. Nobody should try to legislate for that. In my own lifetime I have seen the futility of trying to do so."

Fiona Brandon is a Paris-based writer.



Among Eva Jiricna's clients are Esprit and Kenzo.

Dressing Down For the Future

By Jeannine Stein
Los Angeles Times Service

LOS ANGELES — The future of fashion is not unisex unitards, helmets and silvery boots. It's not clothing designed for intergalactic travel or life in a gleaming Utopian metropolis.

In the year 2000, we'll be dressing for the Information Age, not the Space Age.

Past futurists never imagined that the most visible holdover from the '60s outer-space race would be Tang. And they didn't count on Microsoft's Bill Gates or the Internet.

The computer has completely changed the way we work, live and dress. Think-tankers in California's Silicon Valley propelled a dressing-down trend that has taken off throughout the United States. "Casual Friday" is now commonplace in even the most conservative workplaces. Levi Strauss & Co., among the biggest beneficiaries of the boom, posted about \$1 billion in 1992 sales of its Dockers line of casual wear.

Telecommuting is the next big threat to suits and ties, pantyhose and pumps. In 1991, about 5.5 million U.S. employees worked from home, according to Link Resources, a Manhattan-based research firm. In 1993, the number will rise to 11 million, Link predicts, and will continue to grow as the cost of outfitting a home office drops. (The average \$2,000 price tag of a personal computer, for example, is expected to decline as

competition increases and technology improves.)

"If you're able to fax in 80 percent of your work, then you don't have to dress every day for the office," says Richard Martin, curator of the Costume Institute at New York's Metropolitan Museum of Art. "It's a question of formality vs. informality."

Alison Holt-Brummelkamp, a public relations executive, works at home four days a week to spend more time with her two school-aged children. Not having to dress in skirts and high heels has saved her considerable cash and changed her shopping strategy, she says.

"I'm looking for a lot of comfortable, casual clothing," she says. "I hardly ever wear stockings anymore."

WITNESS the proliferation of such stores as the Gap and its recent offshoot, Old Navy, selling relatively inexpensive basics — jeans, khakis, shorts and T-shirts. Only a couple of notches above a robe and slippers, they do just fine for the occasional schlep to the grocery store or coffee shop.

So much for the Flash Gordon vision of ray guns and spaceships perpetuated by the forward-thinkers of the '50s.

"Ultimately what's going to happen is that the smartest look in the year 2000 is going to be a pair of khakis and a white shirt," says Todd Oldham, a New York-based designer. "It's endured for 80 years. So why not another five?"

BOOKS

CHARLOTTE BRONTE:
A Passionate Life
By Lyndall Gordon. 418 pages.
\$27.50 W. W. Norton.

Reviewed by
Michiko Kakutani

THOUGH I knew I looked a poor creature," Charlotte Brontë once observed, "and in many respects actually was so, nature had given me a voice that could make itself heard, if lifted in excitement or deepened by emotion."

In the century and a half since her death, readers have marveled at the disparity be-

WHAT THEY'RE READING

• Armistead Maupin, the writer, is reading: "More, Please" by Barry Humphries.

"I was recently with Barry and Dame Edna in Amsterdam. This book is Barry's autobiography. The man's a genius, it kills me that he can write so well. It's hard to write about yourself and be completely modest. Even if it's the brutal truth you're still striking a pose."

(Margaret Kemp, IHT)



tween Charlotte Brontë's timid, mouse-like demeanor and her passionate, caustic prose; between her restrictive upbringing and her expansive imagination.

These contradictions in her life are not only fully chronicled by Lyndall Gordon's splendid biography, but also gracefully explicated to give the reader a vivid and emotionally detailed portrait of the novelist and her work.

By now, of course, the outlines of Charlotte Brontë's life are well known: the provincial childhood in Yorkshire; the brutalizing experience of a Dickensian school; the secret writing sessions with her sisters, Emily and Anne; the sudden fame achieved with "Jane Eyre" (1847), and the late marriage to her father's curate.

Although Mrs. Gaskell's famous 1857 biography filtered these basic facts of her friend's life through a strainer of Victorian propriety, later books have given the modern reader a

considerably fuller picture. Winifred Gerin's groundbreaking 1967 biography ("Charlotte Brontë: The Evolution of Genius") detailed Charlotte's formative (and ultimately abortive) romance with her teacher Constantin Heger, while Rebecca Fraser's 1989 biography ("The Brontës: Charlotte Brontë and Her Family") created a vivid picture of her close-knit family world.

Gordon does not aspire to add to the factual record; rather, she chooses to use her imaginative sympathies — honed to precision with earlier biographies of Virginia Woolf and T. S. Eliot — to delineate her subject's rich interior life. She re-examines the autobiographical sources of Charlotte's novels.

Throughout her life, Gordon suggests, Charlotte vacillated between allegiance to the Bible and allegiance to nature; between the sense of duty and self-restraint instilled by her father and aunt, and an anarchic sense of passion embodied by her dissolute brother, Branwell; between the repressiveness of her schooling and the untrammeled freedom of the moors she wandered as a child.

While Charlotte gave free rein to the passionate side of her nature in her novels (and in her letters to the men she loved), the face she presented to the world was that of a polite, provincial spinster.

Whereas Emily led a willfully hermetic life completely impervious to others, Charlotte increasingly tried to negotiate with the world at large. It was

Charlotte who got her books to a publisher, Charlotte who began making trips to London.

Although much of the literary world there would patronize Charlotte as a lonely, pitiful spinster, she quickly found a sympathetic and supportive friend in her urbane young publisher, George Smith. Their relationship would follow the same pattern as Charlotte's earlier one with Heger.

In both cases, a passionate correspondence ensued — a correspondence that eventually devolved, for Charlotte, into form waits for the post. And in both cases, Charlotte would sublimate her disappointment in the failed affair through the practice of her art. Indeed, both Heger and Smith would surface as highly recognizable characters in her 1853 novel, "Villette."

Smith's decision to marry a younger woman in 1854 had another consequence as well: A month after his wedding, Charlotte became engaged to her father's curate, Arthur Bell Nicholls, who had pursued her in vain for years. After the wedding, Charlotte told a friend, she found she had little free time; she put aside work on her last novel, "Emma," and never took it up again.

Although the marriage lasted only nine months before Charlotte became ill (apparently with a digestive-tract illness) and died at 38, the union appears to have been a fulfilling one.

Happiness, Gordon adds, was the achievement of Charlotte Brontë's last year: "Through a cautiously deliber-

ated choice in the early months of 1854, she transformed her life, choosing life over art."

Michiko Kakutani is on the staff of The New York Times.

CHESS

By Robert Byrne

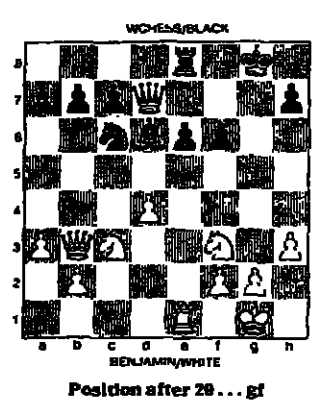
JOEL BENJAMIN upheld the honor of the humans by winning from WChess, a computer, in the Fifth Harvard Cup Intel Championship Playoff.

It is not obvious why computers tend to accept the Queen's Gambit with 2...d5, as WChess played here, in Game 5, and also in Game 1. Benjamin responded with 3.e3. Again we can only guess why. After 3...e5 4.b4 5.d5, White has an isolated d4 pawn in a fluid situation.

WChess's 7...Bb4 was inexplicable; if the computer wanted the bishop there, it could have played 6...Bb4, thus conserving a tempo.

Benjamin could have tried 11.Ng5, but it is not clear whether 11...Re1 12.Qe1 Qd4 13.Bf7 Kf8 14.Bb3 Qe5 gives him any real chance for advantage. He preferred the straightforward positional 11.Re8 Qe8 12.Bf4.

Benjamin overlooked that he could have played 15.d5! Bf4 16.Qd6 (16...f5? is crushed by 17.Re6 followed by a devastating discovered check) 17.e4 Kf8 19.Qe2, with an extra pawn and positional advantage in the shaky situation of the black



king. Nevertheless, his 15.Bg5 Nb4 16.Qd1 Qd7 17.Bc6 fe 18.Qb3 yielded him positional superiority.

On 18...Re8 19.a3 Nc6 20.Bf6! g7, Benjamin struck a powerful blow with 21.d5!, assaulting the fragile black pawn formation. WChess could not play 21...Nc5 because 22.Nd4! e3 Nd5 Kg7 24.Qb7 Nd3 (24...Bc5? is rebuffed by 25.Qc7!) 25.Re8 Qe8 26.Ne3 puts White a pawn ahead with the stronger pawn structure.

Moreover, 21...Na5 22.Qa2! b6 23.b4 Nb7 24.de would win a pawn with a strong initiative for White.

WChess may have chosen 21...ed 22.Re8 Qe8 23.Nd5 Nd4 in the hope of eliciting 24.Nd4? Qe1 mate, but Benjamin took a pawn with 24.Nf6 Kh8 25.Ne8 Nb3 26.Nd6 ed, thus dumping WChess into a lost ending.

After 44.gf, it would have done WChess no good to play 44...Ke7 45.Kd4 Kf6 46.Kd5 Kf5 47.Kc5 Kd4 48.Kb5 Kc3 49.Ka6 Kh3 50.Ka7 h5 51.b5 h4 52.b6 Kg2 53.b7 h3 54.b8/Q.

After 60.f7, WChess gave up.

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digital

ASIA/PACIFIC

Textile Accords Draw Mixed Reviews in India

Compiled by Our Staff From Dispatches

NEW DELHI — Indian officials hailed new agreements with the United States and the European Union on textiles Monday, but an industry group was less enthusiastic in its response to the accords.

The agreements, signed Saturday in Washington and Brussels, significantly increase or remove import quotas for Indian textiles, officials said.

But H. V. Lal Ranga, director-general of the Apparel Export Promotion Council, the country's largest group of exporters, described the agreement with Washington only as "fairly satisfactory." He had no comment on the pact with the EU, saying he was awaiting details.

The agreement gives India a 20 percent increase in its export quota in the United States and grants phased-in access to the Indian market for American-made textiles and garments over the next few years.

America and the EU together buy more than two-thirds of India's textile exports.

For its part, India will ease its tariffs on certain goods in stages over three to seven years and remove all yarns and fibers from its restricted list of imports.

In the agreement with the United States, cotton-made-ups, which are items such as

table linen and napkins, have been freed from quota restrictions, the Indian government said. It said this category accounted for 20 percent of India's previous export quota.

Quotas were also increased for Indian towels, yarns, fabrics and cotton handloom garments.

The accord with the EU removes restraints on India's exports of handloom and cottage textiles, officials said.

India said the two agreements included a "safeguard clause" saying tariffs would return to levels of Jan. 1, 1990, if the integration process planned for developed countries under the Uruguay Round world trade agreement "does not materialize in full" or is delayed.

Textiles account for more than a quarter of India's exports, which in the last fiscal year amounted to nearly \$22 billion. The agreements followed India's move to amend its protectionist Patents Act, which now permit multinational corporations to apply for patents on products in the agricultural, chemical and pharmaceutical sectors.

Previous Indian law only allowed for patents on processes in those sectors. India was required to change the laws on joining the World Trade Organization, which began operating with the new year. (AP, AFP)

Tokyo Toasts the New Year

Growing Economy Keeps Stocks Hot

Bloomberg Business News

TOKYO — After finishing 1994 with the best showing of any of the world's major stock markets, Tokyo is still the place to be in 1995, many analysts here said.

"I am still very bullish," said Olivier Gayno, chief portfolio manager at Gamma Asset Management, which manages about 10 billion yen (\$100 million) in Japanese stocks.

"The economic recovery is stronger than most people expected."

The Nikkei Stock Average of 225 shares rose 13 percent. In dollar terms, it was up 27 percent.

The Dow Jones industrial average, by comparison, rose just 2 percent. In London, the Financial Times-Stock Exchange 100 index fell 10 percent.

Some analysts said the Nikkei could climb 25 percent this year as corporate earnings rise to their highest levels in five years. To make the most of the rise, they said, remember the three C's: cyclical, consumption and computerization.

In other words, analysts recommend stocks that will benefit from economic recovery, rising consumer spending and the drive by companies and individuals to invest in up-to-date technology.

High on analysts' shopping list for 1995: steel stocks such as Nippon Steel Corp.; automotive issues such as Honda Motor Co.; machinery stocks, computer makers such as NEC Corp.; and discount retailers.

Those who still doubt whether Japan's economy was back on track were given proof last week in the form of November economic figures. Industrial production rose 2.7 percent in November from October, ending two months of declines. The unemployment rate fell to 2.9 percent after hovering at 3.0 percent for four months, and sales at large retailers rose for the first time since July.

"After four years of pretty tough times, any increase in sales will lead to a pretty good pop in earnings," said Kenneth Courtis, senior economist at Deutsche Bank Capital Markets (Asia) Ltd. "Once people start to understand that there is real growth, the Nikkei will challenge the 22,000 level."

Even the most optimistic analysts recognize that their prognosis was not certain. If the yen were to rise as much as it did in 1994 — reducing the dollar's value to 96.6 yen from the current level of just below 100 — all bets would be off. A strong yen makes Japanese goods relatively expensive overseas, meaning that big exporters would be priced out of markets they depend on for revenue.

Many analysts said the market was still riddled with fundamental problems. The most striking one is the fact that the average price/earnings ratio for Japanese stocks is about 70, while in the United States, anything higher than 20 raises eyebrows.

But signs of economic strength will become too good to ignore this year, bullish investors say, and will drag even reluctant Japanese investors back into the market.

Analysts tell investors to look for the companies that have aggressively cut costs and have shares of their markets and few competitors. "You have to make sure they keep cutting costs to stay competitive," said Chisato Haganuma, a strategist at Nomura Research Institute.

"The weak economy was a good excuse to cut, but in Japan, it will become more difficult once the economy starts improving," he added.

"The driving force of the recovery will be consumption," said Jim Vestal, chief economist at Barclays de Zoete Wedd Securities (Japan) Ltd. "Inflation is clearly not a problem, and that is going to boost consumer spending."

China Rates Increase To Cool Spending

Reuters

BEIJING — China has raised interest rates on loans for capital investment, the People's Daily reported Monday, saying spending on fixed assets soared in 1994 despite a credit squeeze.

While the official newspaper hailed achievements in infrastructure growth in 1994, the government outlined measures to limit spending. A surplus of investment in China has been causing shortages of construction materials. Such shortages have led to price rises.

The central bank raised its lending rates to banks and companies by an average of 0.24 percentage point effective Sunday to try to control inflation, which is now over 21 percent. Rates on loans for fixed-asset investment rose by an average of 0.72 percentage points.

After the move, three-year interest rates on loans for technical renovations rose to 11.7 percent from 10.98 percent, while rates on loans for capital-construction projects rose to 12.96 percent from 12.24 percent, the newspaper said.

Investment in fixed assets totaled 1.6 trillion yuan (\$189 billion) in 1994, up 28.5 percent compared with 1993.

Investment in what the official newspaper called "pillar" industries and infrastructure soared by 50 percent.

China laid 23 percent more railroad track in 1994 than it did in 1993. The country completed eight new airports and 53 new power-generating units.

Joint-Venture Scrutiny

China is to step up auditing in 1995 of Chinese-foreign joint ventures in which the government has a stake, the Xinhua news agency said Monday.

Auditors will focus on resolving disputes arising from foreign partners' capitalizing on the introduction of equipment or the export of goods, said Guo Zhengqian, auditor-general of the Auditing Administration.

Chinese media have accused foreign partners of some joint ventures of overstating the value of imported equipment.

Markets Closed

Most financial markets in Asia, Europe and the Americas were closed Monday for the New Year. They will reopen Tuesday.

Investor's Asia

Exchange	Index	Monday Close	Prev. Close	% Change
Hong Kong Hang Seng	11000	2400	2300	+4.35
Singapore Straits Times	2400	2300	2200	+4.55
Tokyo Nikkei 225	22000	21000	20000	+5.00
Sydney All Ordinaries	1000	900	800	+12.50
Kuala Lumpur Composite	1000	900	800	+12.50
Bangkok SET	1000	900	800	+12.50
Seoul Composite Stock	1000	900	800	+12.50
Taipei Weighted Price	1000	900	800	+12.50
Manila PSE	1000	900	800	+12.50
Jakarta Stock Index	1000	900	800	+12.50
New Zealand NZSE-40	1000	900	800	+12.50
Bombay National Index	1000	900	800	+12.50

Sources: Reuters, AFP

International Herald Tribune

Very briefly:

- Levi Strauss & Co. established a wholly owned affiliate in Bangalore to market jeans and other clothing in India.
- Pakistan opened its market to foreign life insurance companies and cleared an application by Commercial Union Assurance Co. of Britain to begin operating in the country.
- NEC Corp. will put a personal computer on the market this month priced at around 100,000 yen (\$1,000), to try to compete with other companies' IBM-compatible computers, the Nihon Keizai newspaper said.
- Mission Energy Corp. and Texaco Inc. are negotiating with state-run National Power Corp. in the Philippines to build a 300-megawatt power plant south of Manila.
- Siemens AG said it planned 30 new joint ventures in China, where the German electrical and industrial concern now has 20.

Bloomberg, AFP, Reuters

Vietnamese Export Zones: Add Water and Wait

Agence France-Press

HAIPHONG, Vietnam — This port city has ambitions to be the next Hong Kong.

A computer-generated drawing of the planned Haiphong Export Processing Zone shows rows of factories, gleaming glass office towers and luxurious houses on 300 hectares (720 acres) of reclaimed land.

The site is one of six such projects at the center of Vietnam's plans to attract foreign investment by developing export processing zones — manufacturing areas where imports and exports are tax-free.

But so far only a fence has been built at the Haiphong site, and one of the developers estimates the project could take 15

years and \$1 billion to complete. Promoters of the Haiphong export zone are finding that tax breaks and licensing shortcuts may not be enough to draw investors until Vietnam straightens out an infrastructure that has developed little in a century.

Arthur Kavanagh, a United Nations Industrial Development Organization specialist,

was quoted in a Vietnamese newspaper as saying that most Vietnamese export zones would not work "because of their unsuitable locations and the high cost of infrastructure."

Despite Haiphong's advantages — a good location, a port, and plentiful cheap labor — the export zone suffers from a shortage of capital needed to

build the power plants, water works and transport links crucial to its success.

"At first the government said they would do it all," said Dan Duc Hiep, vice chairman of the company that is developing the Haiphong project. "But we are now finding out we will have to provide our own water and electricity."

Foreign Investment Up

Foreign companies pledged a record \$3.7 billion to projects in Vietnam during 1994, taking total foreign investment pledged since 1988 to \$10.9 billion, Reuters reported Monday.

Vietnam's gross domestic product grew 8.8 percent in 1994, to 170 trillion dong (\$15.4 billion), compared with 8 percent in 1993, according to official figures.

The government said it would hand out contracts in 1995 for roads and other infrastructure projects.

Airport Budget To Increase In Hong Kong

The Associated Press

HONG KONG — The government will ask the Legislative Council later this month to approve an additional 2.4 billion Hong Kong dollars (\$307 million) for construction of the territory's new airport, an official said Monday.

Finance Secretary Sir Hamish Macleod said the money would be used to build government facilities at the airport, now under construction on Chek Lap Kok Island.

The government so far has received 90 percent of the funds needed for the \$20.3 billion project and has awarded 102 contracts worth more than \$8.3 billion.

Tourism Project Set for Cambodia

Compiled by Our Staff From Dispatches

KUALA LUMPUR — Ariston Sdn., a private Malaysian company, signed an agreement Monday to carry out a \$1 billion tourism and infrastructure project in Sihanoukville, Cambodia.

The agreement to upgrade the city's power and water supplies, highways, and airport constitutes the largest foreign investment to date in Cambodia. A total of \$2 billion in investments in Cambodia has been approved since the country adopted a new investment law in August.

Ariston, controlled by the Malaysian entrepreneur Chen Lip Keong, said the project was intended to serve as a catalyst for other Malaysian companies to invest in Cambodia.

"Ariston shall be a trailblazer for Malaysian corporations," Mr. Chen said after the signing in Kuala Lumpur, witnessed by Cambodia's prime minister, Prince Norodom Ranariddh and Hun Sen, and by Prime Minister Mahathir bin Mohamad of Malaysia.

Ariston is part of the private Lipland group of companies owned by Mr. Chen, who is also president and chief executive of two Malaysian listed firms, FACB Bhd. and Kanzen Bhd. Lipland group also owns Cambodia's only private college and the Cambodian Times newspaper.

Ariston was the winner in an international tender last month for the project in Sihanoukville in southern Cambodia.

Mr. Chen said the project would start by converting Sihanoukville's domestic airport into Cambodia's second international airport and building a hotel-and-casino resort. That work is scheduled to take three years to complete.

Tourism projects would include golf courses, a cable-car link between Sihanoukville, formerly known as Kompong Som, and nearby Naga Island, an ecology theme park, a water theme park, a marina-and-yacht club and several hotels, Mr. Chen said.

Mr. Chen said the entire project was expected to be completed in 10 to 15 years. He said his company would welcome additional Malaysian partners.

Mr. Chen said Ariston had held talks with a number of Malaysian companies on the possibility of setting up joint ventures in various phases of the project. Some of these companies have expressed very keen interest," he said.

He said Malaysia Airport Bhd. was a "potential candidate" to manage the Sihanoukville airport. (Reuters, AP)

WORLD STOCK MARKETS

Agence France-Press Jan 2

Class Prev.	Class Prev.	Class Prev.	Class Prev.	Class Prev.	Class Prev.
Amsterdam	Amsterdam	Amsterdam	Amsterdam	Amsterdam	Amsterdam
ABN AMRO 11.30	ABN AMRO 11.30	ABN AMRO 11.30	ABN AMRO 11.30	ABN AMRO 11.30	ABN AMRO 11.30
ASR 11.30	ASR 11.30	ASR 11.30	ASR 11.30	ASR 11.30	ASR 11.30
... (many more rows) (many more rows) (many more rows) (many more rows) (many more rows) (many more rows) ...
Brussels	Brussels	Brussels	Brussels	Brussels	Brussels
Almou 77.20	Almou 77.20	Almou 77.20	Almou 77.20	Almou 77.20	Almou 77.20
Arbed 47.80	Arbed 47.80	Arbed 47.80	Arbed 47.80	Arbed 47.80	Arbed 47.80

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SPORTS



Isabelle Autissier in Australia on Monday with the helicopter pilot who rescued her.

'I Am Here Because of You'

'Grateful' Autissier Now Hopes to Save Boat

By Our Staff From Despatches

SYDNEY — The French sailor Isabelle Autissier said Monday that she was "very grateful" to the Australian Navy personnel who had rescued her after she spent more than four days stranded in her stricken yacht in the southern Indian Ocean.

Autissier, 38, who was competing in the BOC Round the World race, was rescued Sunday 750 nautical miles southwest of Adelaide, Australia.

She was lifted off by winch from her 18-meter (60-foot) yacht, the *Ecoueil Fottou Charente II*, by the crew of a Seahawk helicopter and then transferred to the deck of the Australian frigate *Darwin*.

"I am here because of you and I will never forget that," she told the Seahawk crew after arriving at the Royal Australian Air Force Edinburgh base, north of Adelaide.

She said she had never lost confidence in either her boat's buoyancy or the success of the search for her.

Autissier activated emergency beacons after her yacht was rolled by a huge wave during a violent storm on Wednesday, which destroyed her steering system, damaged bulkheads and punched a huge hole in the deck.

"I was very confident," she said Monday. "These boats have four watertight compartments and two of them were out of water so the boat could float."

"Then also I was very confident with the rescue system," she added. "I had never used it before, but I have seen it working for other people. It is an incredible organization."

But her boat remained at sea, and she said she would like nothing better than to save it.

"This boat represents three years of my life," she said. "We are very close, one to the other."

A deep sea trawler, the *Petunia Explorer*, left Hobart on Sunday in an attempt to salvage the 1 million Australian dollar (\$780,000) ocean racer.

John Petersen, the trawler's

skipper, told Australian Broadcasting Corporation radio that he was confident the yacht could be salvaged.

Autissier said she would remain in Australia awaiting the results of the search.

"I would like to do the third leg of the BOC if you can get the boat for me," she added.

Autissier, who won the South Carolina-to-Cape Town leg of the race, earlier had been forced to erect a jury rig when she was dismasted early in the Cape Town-to-Sydney leg of the race. At the time, she was leading the race.

She managed to make her way to the French Kerguelen Islands in the southern Indian Ocean and installed a makeshift mast, losing about 10 days.

Christophe Auguin of France, the defending champion, won the second leg of the race when he arrived in Sydney 11 days ago. Nine other competitors have since completed the leg.

(AP, Reuters)

Skiing on the New Information Superslopes

By Barbara Lloyd
New York Times Service

NEW YORK — A picture may be worth a thousand words, but owners of ski areas are finding that a computer network may be more valuable yet. It is a vast new outlet for ski areas that in the past have relied on brochures and advertisements to entice their businesses.

It is called Internet, a public information highway connected by telephone to 32 million computers worldwide. For the ski industry, that means boundless ways of selling itself. But for the skier, it means an easy way to get information — to look at a trail map, arrange for a lesson, check out a lodge, rent equipment or learn new techniques from an expert.

Early last month, Sugarloaf/USA in Carabasset, Maine, became the first ski area in the eastern United States to set up its own multimedia electronic site on the Internet. A sophisticated display of text, graphics and sound includes a 50-page information package. Next week, video will be on line too. A snow condition report is updated four times daily. And computer browsers can ask questions by electronic mail.

Aspen Skiing Co. in Colorado set up a similar multimedia site for its resorts this season. Other ski areas appear on the Internet, but mostly with limited

text references to basic resort information. They tend to appear collectively by states, like sections titled "Ski New York" and "Ski Colorado."

"The ski industry needs to get into this marketplace because destination travel is going to be competitive," said Bill Joy, vice president for research of Sun Microsystems. "The demographics of people on the net is an age group that is still skiing."

Joy, whose office is in Aspen, Colorado, has been instrumental in setting up the Internet site in that area. Besides the ski resort, it also focuses on Aspen as a community.

Bob Middleton, network manager for Aspen Skiing, said that Aspen is setting up computer kiosks, or outdoor stands, at the Aspen resorts so that skiers can have access to the on-line information on the spot.

Sugarloaf has embellished its Internet site with a photo gallery. An Internet viewer can call up landscapes of Sugarloaf that show the ski area's terrain. Each picture is previewed in a small, thumbnail box that indicates how much computer memory is needed to expand the photo to screen size.

Tom Patterson, a spokesman for Sugarloaf, said recently that within the first three weeks of appearing as a way station on the Internet, the ski resort logged 17,000 hits.

Aspen recorded about 10,000 hits in its first week. In computer jargon, that means being noticed by thousands of Internet surfers — people who browse through the computer network looking for topics of interest.

One of the Sugarloaf viewers left this message: "Wow, this is too cool for words. I'm living here in Guam. I

For the skier, Infonet means an easy way to look at a trail map, arrange for a lesson, check out a lodge, rent equipment or learn new techniques from an expert.

haven't been back East for two years, and I haven't been up at the 'Loaf in about four, so I miss the place. This web page brings back lots of great memories of my youth spent grinding my knees to hamburger on Winter's Way."

Other browsers left messages asking Sugarloaf for more information and for the ability to make reservations. The resort is working on that. Skiers will be able to call up a list of lodges, then select

one they would like to see. With that, the computer screen will show an exterior picture of the inn, and then, an interior photo of a typical room.

For skiers who want to know ahead of time what a particular slope looks like, there will be short, on-line video clips showing, for example, a skier descending down a particular black-diamond trail. Sugarloaf also plans to enlist Julie Parisien, a two-time Olympian, to demonstrate skiing techniques through 10-second video clips.

S-K-I Ltd., the company that operates Sugarloaf, plans to place its other resorts on Internet this winter, including Killington, Vermont; Mount Snow/Haystack, Vermont; Bear Mountain, California; and Waterville Valley, New Hampshire.

Others in the ski industry also are arranging for network interaction. Snow Country, for example, the national ski magazine, plans to go on-line next summer on Unet, a new service for participatory sports. It will be accessed through its own subscriber service, or on a gateway through the Internet.

Besides on-line services, information on ski areas is also available through software companies that market CD-ROM multimedia packages. The CD-ROMs connect to a computer, but don't require a telephone connection to the Internet.

Talks in NHL Dispute Are On Again

The Associated Press

CHICAGO — The National Hockey League and its players union continued low-level talks Monday in hopes of resolving their differences as a Jan. 16 deadline for starting the season neared.

On Sunday, the NHL vice president, Brian Burke, and legal counsel, Jeffrey Bash, met with the players' association lawyers John McCambridge and Bob Riley for four hours in talks aimed at ending the three-month lockout. It was the first meeting between the sides since Dec. 17 and came on the 93rd day of the lockout.

"Now it's our two lawyers and their two lawyers, and it's time to fish or cut bait," the Toronto Maple Leafs president, Cliff Fletcher, told The Canadian Press. "My understanding is that they'll be meeting until a deal is done or they decide a deal can't be done."

Hanging over the discussions on a new collective bargaining agreement was the Jan. 16 date set by the NHL commissioner, Gary Bettman, as the latest start of a shortened, 50-game season. An estimated 8-10 days would be needed to ratify a deal and stage training camps.

A payroll tax, which players say is a salary cap in disguise, threatens the talks. Players say they will never accept a tax, which owners feel is

necessary if player concessions do not accomplish the NHL goal of restraining rising salaries.

The NHL's proposal calls for a gate receipt tax to accompany the payroll tax, with the proceeds from the gate tariff going to small-market teams to help them compete.

Paul Weiler, a labor expert at Harvard Law School, says NHL owners would have been better off devising a meaningful revenue-sharing formula to solve their economic woes rather than trying to cap players' salaries with a prohibitive tax.

He contends that the NHL suffers from separate problems — revenue disparity between small and large markets and rising salaries that consume an unduly high share of total league revenue.

He said there were big differences in revenue streams for large market teams such as Montreal, Toronto and the New York Rangers compared with Hartford, Quebec and Winnipeg.

"A side benefit of having owners, rather than players, pay for revenue sharing is that owners would then have a powerful incentive to devise a form of revenue-sharing that will significantly enhance the quality and marketability of the entire league," Weiler wrote in a recent paper, "One Prescription for our Sports Disease."

SCOREBOARD

Interceptions Ret. 0-0 3-7
Come-At-It-All 22-31 20-34
Soccer-Yards Last 1-10 2-14
Punts 4-2 5-30
Fumbles-Lost 0-0 3-1
Penalties-Yards 5-21 4-25
Time of Possession 24:18 25:42

NFL Playoff Summaries

NEW ENGLAND 9 10 9 3-23
CLEVELAND 3 7 7 3-20

Cle-FC Silver 20, 7:20.
Second Quarter
NE-Thompson 13 pass from Blodgett (Bohrer kick), 4:12.

Cle-Corrier 5 pass from Testaverde (Silver kick), 7:57.
NE-FC Silver 23, 14:30.

The Quarter
Cle-Hoard 10 run (Silver kick), 12:39.
Fourth Quarter
Cle-FC Silver 21, 11:24.
NE-FC Silver 23, 12:30.

New Eng. Cleveland
First downs 20 22
Sacks-yards 16-37 34-72
Passing 2-6 2-4
Punts 2-5 1-1
Kickoff Returns 5-99 3-70

Min-FC Silver 29, 6:57.

Second Quarter
Chi-Tilmon 1 run (Butler kick), 3:14.
Chi-Jennions 9 pass from S.Walsh (Butler kick), 6:57.

Min-Corrier 4 pass from Moon (pass failed), 14:41.

Third Quarter
Chi-RaHarris 29 run (Butler kick), 2:02.
Min-FC Silver 48, 14:35.

Fourth Quarter
Chi-J.Graham 21 pass from S.Walsh (Butler kick), 2:18.

Min-Lee 11 pass from Moon (pass failed), 9:24.
Chi-Minfield 48 humble return (Butler kick), 11:52.

First downs 16 22
Sacks-yards 20-44 19-49
Passing 2-14 2-8
Punts 1-1 6-8
Kickoff Returns 3-45 4-132

Interceptions Ret. 2-19 1-10
Come-At-It-All 15-23 23-42
Soccer-Yards Last 1-7 2-11
Punts 3-29 4-33
Fumbles-Lost 1-1 3-2

Penalties-Yards 4-30 11-45
Time of Possession 25:27 34:39

INDIVIDUAL STATISTICS
RUSHING-Chicago, RaHarris 13-67, Tilmon 11-19, S.Walsh 5-4, J.Graham 1-3, Minnesotta, Allen 12-27, S.Graham 4-12, Moon 2-9, R.Smith 1-4.

PASSING-Chicago, S. Walsh 15-23-122, Minnesotta, Moon 29-22-292, Salsbury 4-4-0.

RECEIVING-Chicago, J. Graham 4-108, Conway 4-56, RaHarris 3-56, T.Carter 1-14, Jennings 1-7, Tilmon 1-7, Green 1-5, Minnesotta, Lee 11-19, C.Corrier 8-41, A. Jordan 4-35, Reed 3-29, Ismail 3-29, S. Jordan 2-16, Palmer 2-11, Allen 1-7.

MISSED FIELD GOALS-None.

THE AP TOP 25

The Associated Press' college basketball poll, with first-place votes in parentheses, record through Jan. 1, total points based on 25 points for a first-place vote through one point

for a 25th-place vote, and previous rankings:

1. N. Carolina (54) 9-0 1,613
2. UCLA (41) 4-4 1,022
3. Arkansas (3) 11-1 1,090
4. Massachusetts 5-1 1,420
5. Kansas 8-1 1,324
6. Connecticut 7-4 1,232
7. Maryland 10-2 1,122
8. Kentucky 6-2 1,102
9. Arizona 9-2 1,060
10. Syracuse 8-1 1,027
11. Duke 6-2 996
12. Georgetown 7-1 982
13. Florida 6-2 954
14. Michigan St. 7-3 897
15. Arizona St. 9-2 882
16. Iowa St. 10-1 874
17. California 7-3 872
18. Wake Forest 7-1 868
19. Nebraska 10-1 862
20. New Mexico St. 9-2 831
21. Indiana 8-4 834
22. Iowa 10-2 826
23. Stanford 9-4 827
24. Georgia Tech 8-3 804
25. Penn 6-1 157

DENNIS THE MENACE



JUMBLE

Unscramble these four Jumble words to make a sentence. Use the letters in the words to make a sentence. The first letter of each word is given. The rest of the letters are in a jumble. The words are: POAZT, CLUD, VOONCY, KHENAS.

POAZT: The first letter of the word is P. The rest of the letters are O, A, Z, T. The word is POAST.

CLUD: The first letter of the word is C. The rest of the letters are L, U, D. The word is CLUD.

VOONCY: The first letter of the word is V. The rest of the letters are O, O, N, C, Y. The word is VOONCY.

KHENAS: The first letter of the word is K. The rest of the letters are H, E, N, A, S. The word is KHENAS.

Now arrange the words in the correct order to make a sentence. The words are: POAST, CLUD, VOONCY, KHENAS.

Answer: POAST, CLUD, VOONCY, KHENAS.

Now arrange the words in the correct order to make a sentence. The words are: POAST, CLUD, VOONCY, KHENAS.

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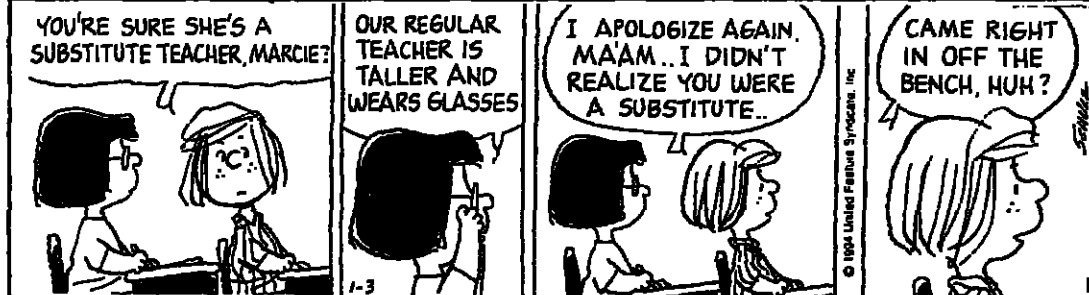
Now arrange the words in the correct order to make a sentence. The words are: POAST, CLUD, VOONCY, KHENAS.

Answer: POAST, CLUD, VOONCY, KHENAS.

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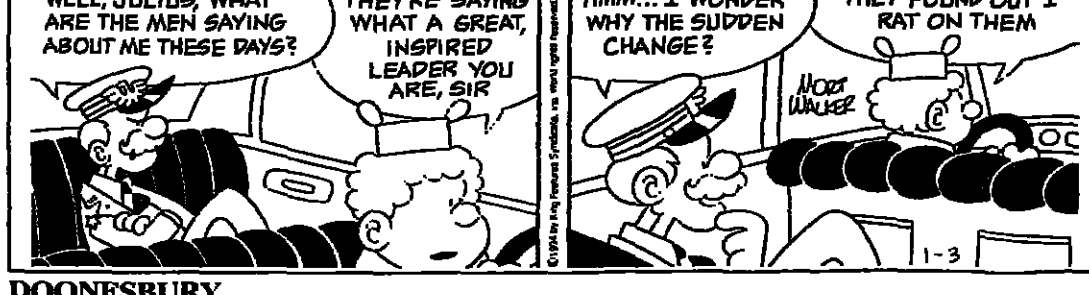
PEANUTS



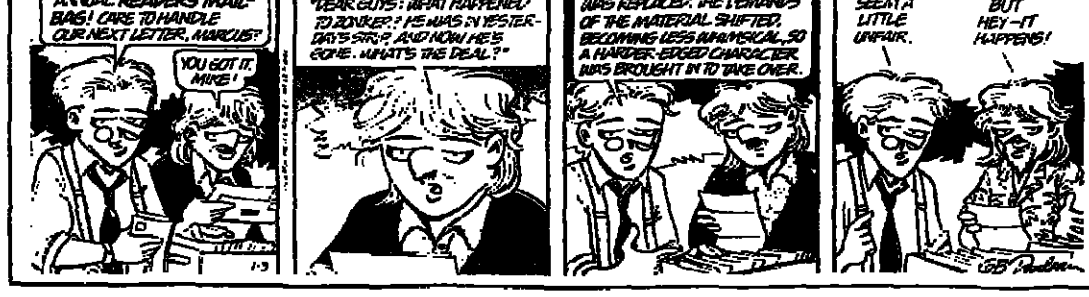
GARFIELD



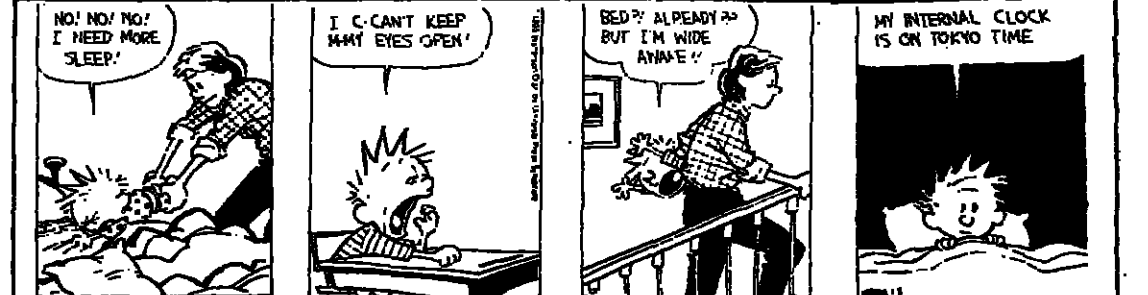
BEETLE BAILEY



DOONESBURY



CALVIN AND HOBBS



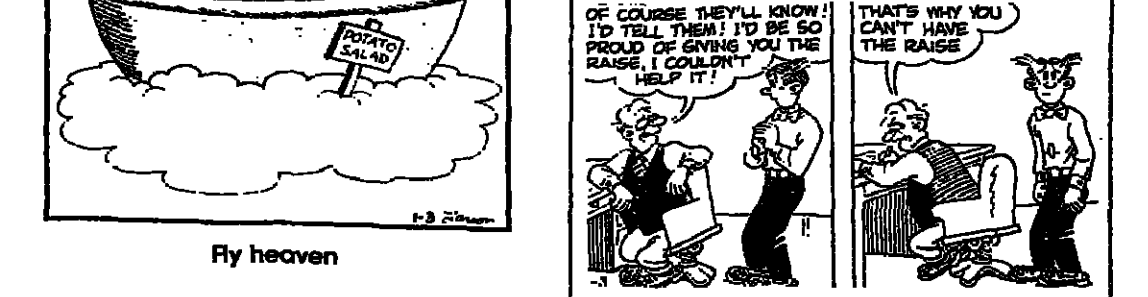
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THE FAR SIDE



BLONDIE



SPORTS

Behind Frazier, Nebraska Sinks Miami and Stakes Championship Claim

USC Tramples Texas Tech To Set Cotton Bowl Record

Rob Johnson threw three of his four touchdowns to Keyshawn Johnson as Southern California rolled to a record-setting 55-14 rout of Texas Tech on Monday in the Cotton Bowl in Dallas.

USC's 55-point outburst set a Cotton Bowl scoring record, breaking the mark of 46 scored by Miami against Texas in 1991.

Johnson completed 16-of-21 passes for 289 yards and four touchdowns as USC raised its record to 8-3-1. Texas Tech fell to 6-6.

Johnson, who surpassed Rodney Peete as USC's all-time passing leader, tied a Cotton Bowl mark with his four touchdowns and finished just three yards shy of the record for yards passing set by Kevin Murray of Texas A&M against Auburn in 1986.

Keyshawn Johnson had eight receptions for a Cotton Bowl record 222 yards and three touchdowns, covering 12, 22 and 86 yards.

USC set the tone early, putting up 34 points in the first half, including 28 points in the first quarter. Texas Tech gained 52 yards in the first half against 334 for the Trojans.

The Red Raiders became the latest Southwest Conference representative to lose in the Cotton Bowl.

The Southwest Conference team has lost the last seven Cotton Bowls, with Texas A&M's 35-10 victory over Notre Dame on Jan. 1, 1988, being the last win by a member school.

The game marked the end of a 55-year marriage between the Cotton Bowl and the Southwest Conference. Next year, the Cotton Bowl will align itself with the Western Athletic Conference.

Wisconsin Defeats Duke

Terrell Fletcher rushed for 241 yards on 39 carries and scored two touchdowns to lead Wisconsin to a 34-20 victory over Duke in the Hall of Fame Bowl in Tampa, Florida.

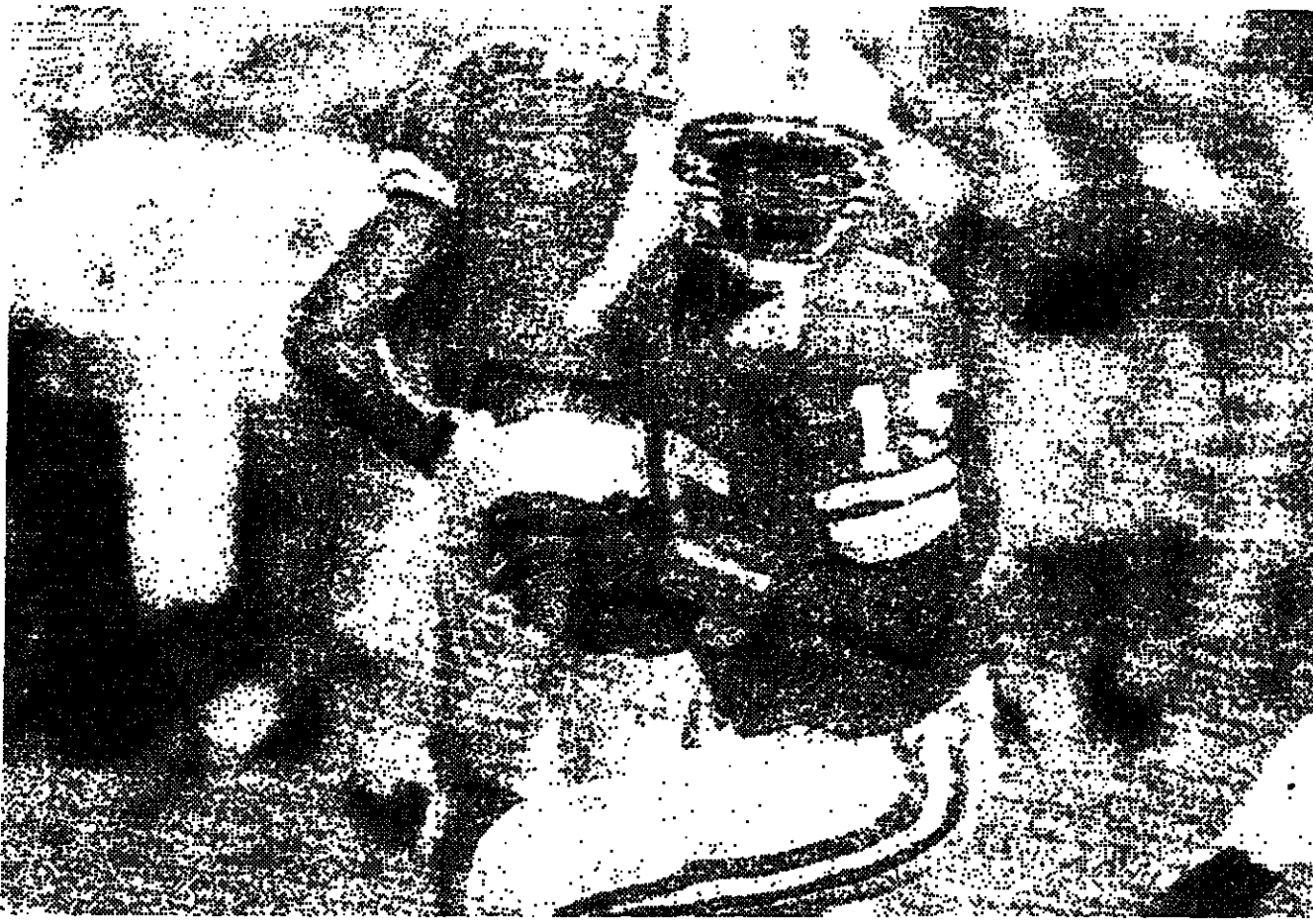
It was the first-ever meeting of the schools and marked only the second bowl appearance in 34 years for Duke, which finished the season 8-4.

The Badgers of Wisconsin ended the season with a 7-4-1 record.

Fletcher, who had his role increased since the tailback Brent Moss was dismissed from the team in November, scored on a one-yard run in the third quarter to snap a 13-13 tie and broke off a 49-yard touchdown run with 1:31 remaining in the fourth quarter to seal the victory.

Fletcher, Wisconsin's all-time leader in all-purpose yardage, had rushed for 357 yards in the Badgers' last two games.

Duke quarterback Spencer Fischer was intercepted four times, including three times in the first quarter when Wisconsin grabbed a 13-0 lead.



Tommie Frazier led a fourth-quarter comeback that gave No. 1 Nebraska a 24-17 Orange Bowl victory over Miami.

North Carolina State Rallies to Win the Peach Bowl

The Associated Press

ATLANTA — Terry Harvey passed for one touchdown and set up another just over three minutes later with a 62-yard completion as No. 23 North Carolina State rallied to beat Mississippi State, 28-24, in the Peach Bowl.

Harvey connected with Dallas Dickerson on a 3-yard scoring pass with 1:12 left in the third quarter on Sunday and then ran for a 2-point conversion that tied the game at 21.

After State failed to get a first down, Harvey took the Wolfpack (9-3) 80 yards in four plays, with Carlos King getting the final 11 yards with 13:06 to play.

Mississippi State (8-4) reached the Wolfpack 28 in the closing minutes, but couldn't overcome a 15-yard face-mask penalty.

Other Bowl Games

ROSE: Joe Paterno now has another reason for backing a postseason playoff.

Since the mid-1960s, when polls began to be released after the bowl games, only three teams have finished with a perfect record, won a major postseason bowl game and not earned at least a portion of the national championship.

All three teams have been Paterno-coached Penn State clubs — and it could

happen a fourth time if the No. 2 Nittany Lions beat underdog Oregon on Monday in the Rose Bowl.

No. 1 Nebraska's victory over Miami in the Orange Bowl practically closed the door on any chance Penn State had at a national championship when the polls are released Tuesday.

"I've said it a thousand times, let's decide it on the field," Paterno said.

But Paterno knew that a victory over the 12th-ranked Ducks on Monday could give him his 16th bowl victory, pushing him past the late Paul (Bear) Bryant and into first place in the record books. It also would make him the first

coach to win the four major bowl games: Rose, Cotton, Orange and Sugar.

CITRUS: Of the lesser games, this bowl in Orlando, Florida, has the best lineup and the most storied teams. Combining the histories of Alabama (11-1) and Ohio State (9-3), there are 1,370 games, 72 bowl games and nine national championships.

This game has meaning for Alabama's seniors. They have a 44-5-1 record, including the 1992 national title. With one more victory, they would set a school record for the most victories by one class.

(AP, WP)

QB Rallies Cornhuskers To Orange Bowl Triumph

By Ken Denlinger

Washington Post Service

MIAMI — In a storybook ending to a special season, quarterback Tommie Frazier led a fourth-quarter comeback that gave top-ranked Nebraska a 24-17 victory over No. 3 Miami in the Orange Bowl.

The victory Sunday night was Nebraska's first in its past eight bowls and almost surely assured Tom Osborne of his first national championship in 22 years as head coach.

Nebraska ended the season 13-0 and with a victory over a Miami team (10-2) ranked third and having won 62 of its previous 63 games in their home stadium. No. 2 Penn State was to play No. 12 Oregon on Monday in the Rose Bowl.

Nebraska scored the last 17 points and fullback Cory Schlesinger accounted for the final two Cornhusker touchdowns, including the winner on a 14-yard run with 2:46 left.

But the spark on the game-winning, 58-yard drive came from Frazier, who missed the last eight regular season games with blood clots behind his right knee and was an uncertain starter until last week.

Twice Frazier kept the ball on option plays. The first time he gained 21 yards. On the second, he gained six to earn the Cornhuskers a first down at the 14. With Miami concerned about Frazier, Schlesinger rumbled up the middle for the winning points.

Only a junior, Frazier achieved most of his goals in his third Orange Bowl start. Even though he was just 3-for-5 passing and carried the ball only seven times for 31 yards, he was named the game's most valuable player.

"When I signed here," he said, "that was one of the things I wanted to do — win the na-

tional championship. Everyone was so excited you couldn't hear yourself. People hugging. People crying. One of those moments you savor for a lifetime."

Frazier started and then gave way to Brook Berringer on the third series. That was expected. What was not necessarily certain was Frazier getting back in, because Berringer played well. After he threw an interception on first and goal from the 4 early in the fourth quarter, however, Frazier returned.

Miami's coach, Dennis Erickson, was upset with his team for accumulating 10 penalties for 88 yards. Also, wide receiver Taj Johnson was open for a sure touchdown just beyond midfield on the drive before Nebraska's game-winning, but quarterback Frank Costa's pass sailed long.

The late drama began midway through the fourth quarter when Miami snapper Jeffery Taylor hiked the ball over punter Dane Prewitt's head. With the ball on the ground at his 10, Prewitt sent it through the end zone with a left-footed swipe for what the Cornhuskers thought was a safety.

But the Hurricanes were called for an illegal kick and Nebraska ended up with first and goal at the 4. But, on first down, Berringer's rollout pass was intercepted by Miami's Earl Little in the end zone.

That brought Frazier back into the game — and on his second possession he directed a two-play, 40-yard drive that ended with Schlesinger powering in from the 15. Frazier then hit tight end Eric Alford in the middle of the end zone for the two-point conversion that tied the game at 17-17 with 7:38 left.

As expected, Nebraska moved its all-American right guard, Brenden Stai, to left guard to counter Miami's defensive stalwart, tackle Warren Sapp. The move worked beautifully on the game's first play, when I-back Lawrence Phillips gained five yards up the middle. However, nothing much else went right for the Cornhuskers the rest of the first quarter and the Costa-led Hurricanes gained a 10-0 lead.

Frazier threw three passes on the first two Nebraska possessions and they ran the gamut — a four-yard completion, a medium throw that had no chance of being complete and a heave that was intercepted.

That interception, by Carlos Jones, started a 97-yard drive that put Miami up 10-0.

The Hurricanes could have been ahead by more, but a 15-yard penalty for offensive pass interference cost them a first down inside the Nebraska 10 on their first possession and they had to settle for Prewitt's 44-yard field goal.

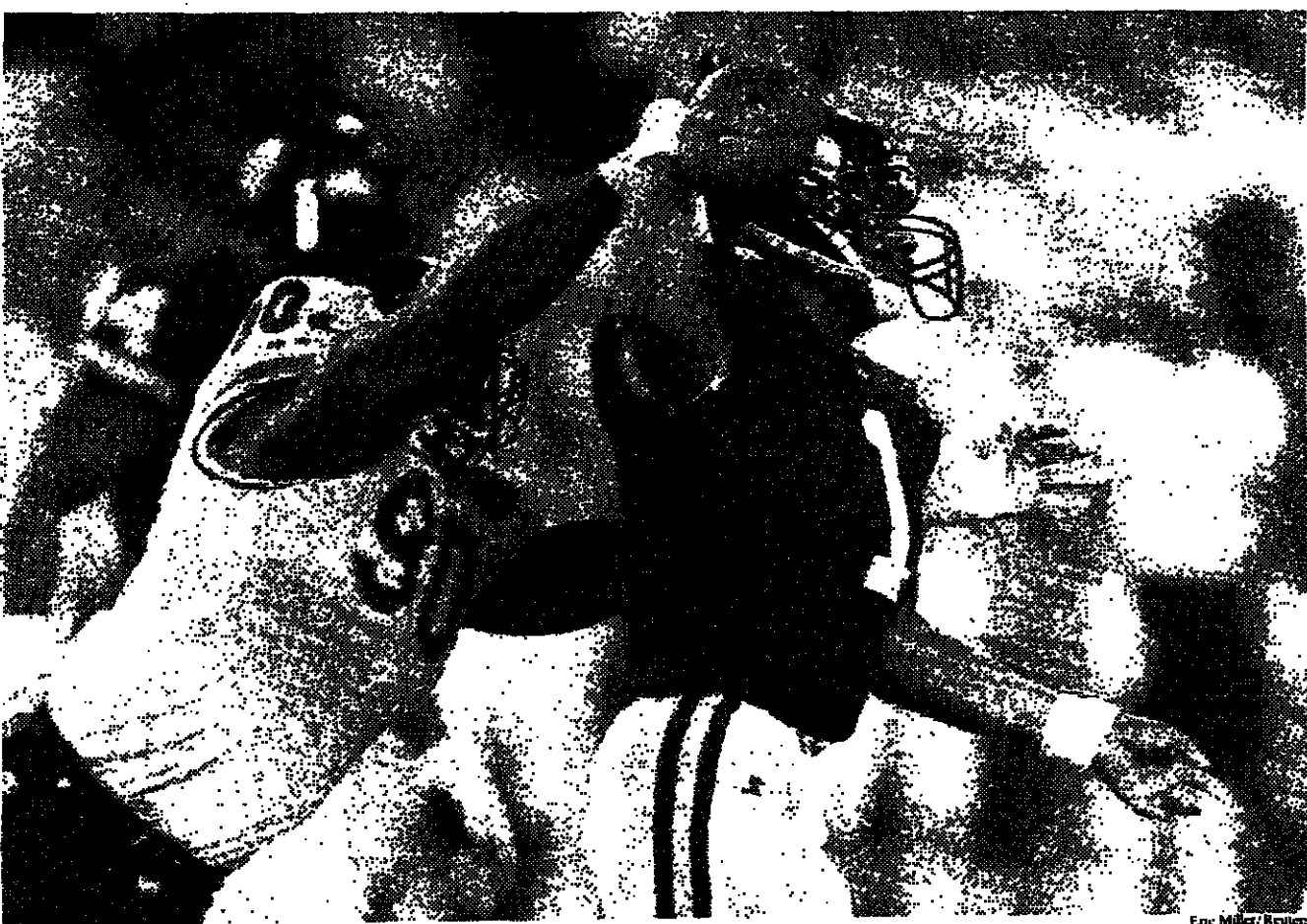
Frazier was not totally ineffective, but Berringer replaced him at about the time Osborne had said — on the Cornhuskers' third possession.

Nebraska continued to run Phillips most of the time — and that set up Berringer's 19-yard pass to backup tight end Mark Gilman for a TD midway through the second quarter.

With Miami concentrating on the run on first down, the 240-pound Gilman got behind the defense, caught Berringer's pass inside the 5 and stumbled into the end zone.

Costa gave Miami a 17-7 lead on the first possession of the third quarter. Again his receiver, this time tailback Jonathan Harris, was equally effective.

On second and nine at the Nebraska 44, the 5-foot-9 Harris took a short pass to his left and then cut back toward the middle of the field. He broke past defensive back Kareem Moss and then eluded two more defenders before powering into the end zone.



Chicago's Akuzo Spellman got to Minnesota's Warren Moon, forcing an incomplete pass in the Bears' 35-18 triumph.

Bears Roll to Upset Victory Over the Bumbling Vikings

By Michael Wilbon

Washington Post Service

MINNEAPOLIS — For so long this season, it looked as if the Minnesota Vikings might be the National Football Conference's best bet to break the Cowboys' 49ers stranglehold on the conference. But playing at home against arguably the weakest team in the entire playoffs field, the Vikings stumbled and fumbled and bumbled their way to yet another first-round playoff loss.

The Chicago Bears took advantage of four Vikings turnovers and got yet another efficient performance from quarterback Steve Walsh to take a 35-18 victory over the stunned Vikings in the Metrodome on Sunday.

After scoring only three points on two Chicago turnovers to start the game, the Vikings collapsed under the weight of their own turnovers and 11 penalties, two of which nullified touchdowns.

It was a particularly bitter defeat for the Vikings, who swept the Bears in the regular season and had legitimate hopes of challenging the Cowboys next week in Dallas. Instead, the Packers will visit the Cowboys on Sunday and the Bears will go to San Francisco, where they will be enormous underdogs on Saturday.

The Bears in no way looked like the only playoff team with no Pro Bowl players or a team that allowed more points than it scored during the regular season. Sunday's 35 points were the most Chicago scored all season. Chicago drove 80 yards in 16

plays to take a 7-3 lead early in the second quarter. Then the Bears went 71 yards on four plays after Warren Moon was intercepted (though wide receiver Qadry Ismail was at fault for bobbling the perfect pass) to take a 14-3 lead.

Minnesota got within 14-9, but Chicago's Raymond Harris got loose for a 29-yard run that made it 21-9 to open the third quarter. And after a Vikings field goal, Walsh hit Jeff Graham on a 21-yard pass to make it 28-12 Chicago.

Walsh, 9-3 this season as a starter, killed the Vikings with the short passing game, completing 15-of-23 for 221 yards.

"This is a big statement for us," Walsh said. "All the little things went right for us. This is something you don't hear often, but we know we have the ability."

Ability is the one category in which the Vikings appeared to hold a decisive advantage, particularly on offense. But while Moon set club playoff records by completing 29 of 52 passes (292 yards and two touchdowns), his two interceptions hurt almost as much as the absence of a running game.

The Vikings set the tone from the outset by failing to score despite having great field possessions. They started consecutive series at the Bears 6 (after a Lewis Tillman fumble), the Bears 39 (after Walsh had a pass tipped and intercepted) and the Bears 33 (after Robert Smith's 58-yard kick return). All of that produced one Fuad Reveziz 29-yard field goal for a 3-0 lead in the first quarter.

After setting up first and goal at the 6, a holding penalty pushed Minnesota back to the 15. The next series was ruined when Chris Hinton was called for holding. And what should have been a converted third-down play the next series turned into an interception for Chicago linebacker Barry Minter when Ismail had a perfect pass sail off his palms.

The Bears were more opportunistic and took advantage of bad coverages and sloppy tackling by the Vikings. Walsh set up the second touchdown with a 52-yard completion to Graham, and Keith Jennings' nine-yard catch made it 14-3. Harris broke three Minnesota tackles en route to a 29-yard touchdown run in the third quarter, which made it 21-9.

The key series of the game might have been at the start of the fourth quarter. The Vikings had gotten a 48-yard field goal from Reveziz to creep within 21-12 with five seconds left in the third. But on the ensuing kickoff, Reveziz's kick went out of bounds, spotting the Bears the ball at their 40. To make matters worse, John Randle was called for roughing the quarterback at the end of a 12-yard completion, moving the Bears to the Minnesota 33. The next play, the Vikings were offside, backing the Bears to the 28.

Moon was limping heavily after the game. Questions persisted about his playoff disappointments; this is his fourth straight postseason loss, and sixth of his past seven.

CROSSWORD

ACROSS
1 Vacuum tube filler
6 Wanders

11 Underswear initials
14 March composer
15 Key above G
16 Majors or Myles

17 Happenstance
18 Once — while
20 Barber of baseball
21 Sprite
22 Made
23 City near Utah Lake

24 "Desire Under the —"
25 Head of a family
26 Peeved
27 When Operation Overlord took place

28 Bygone colt
29 Mimes, across the Pyrenees
30 Dined
31 Jodie Foster's directorial debut, 1991

32 Douglas or alpine, e.g.
33 Club members
34 Pub quarts
35 Seventh day activity

36 Improves
37 Monkeyshine
38 Carriage, in the country
39 Cousin of the English horn

40 Bushy-tailed animal
41 Princess' sleep disturber
42 Dishcloth
43 Greek vowel

44 Child's means of propulsion
45 Soak flex
46 More cheerful
47 Takes to the trails

48 Opposite NNW
49 Brainstorms
50 Apply

DOWN
1 Houston player
2 Cheraman
3 Tour leader
4 W.W. II intelligence org.
5 N.B.A.'s Archibald

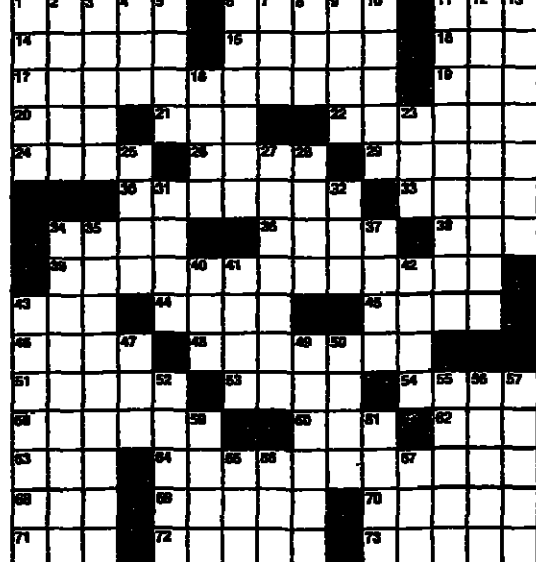
6 Club fund-raiser
7 Light switch position
8 Miss, neighbor
9 Chess finale
10 Robert Fulton's power

11 Notoriously risky social event
12 Respects
13 Sharpshooter
14 Fashion's Cassini
15 "Far out"

16 Shopping place
17 1299 James Stewart title role
18 Que follower, in song
19 — bene
20 Mr. Quisley

21 Drives away
22 A number 1
23 Christmas tree topper
24 Atty.'s degree
25 Parisian summers

26 What's more
27 Constitution creators
28 Actor Matheson
29 Narrow
30 Watchful one



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Solution to Puzzle of Jan. 2

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PESTER ASLEEP
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GADRE ORALS
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ART BUCHWALD

Down and Out in '95

WASHINGTON — There is a pessimism in the air that I have never felt in this country before. Everybody is down, even when they have every reason to be up. If you are an optimist, the pessimists get really mad with you.

I discovered how serious things were when I attended a New Year's Day party at Eloise Agger's house.

Paul Youngblood said, "1995 is the worst year of my life."

"How can you say that?" I asked. "It's hardly begun. What bothers you the most about it?"

"Newt Gingrich — and the fact that I have to get my teeth cleaned. I hate to have my teeth cleaned, especially during a Republican Congress."

Bob Parrish, a wealthy investor, agreed that 1995 was a bummer. "By the time the Republicans get finished with their 'Contract With America,' there won't be anything left over for the rich."

"The rich are always the first to get it in the neck from the Republicans," Eloise said.

Charlotte Woolard declared,

"I know that I'll get a cold in 1995. I never catch one in the even years. I wish it was over already."

Carole Leggett added, "I just know that I'll buy a 1995 car and it will turn out to be a lemon."

Dylan Kennedy told me, "My math professor said that it would be sheer luck if any of us passed our exams in '95. He had no heart in 1994, so I don't know what he'll do to us this year."

I tried to cheer people up. "So far I think that 1995 has been a pretty good year, considering that it's in its first day. Eloise has provided us with egg nog and good cheer, and I predict that there are going to be many pleasant surprises coming our way."

Diana Walker scoffed, "I hate people who always think that everything is a bed of roses. They don't face reality. If it wasn't for our pessimism we would never accomplish anything."

I continued my attempt to see the glass half full.

"Maybe the baseball strike will be over in 1995. That's something to look forward to."

"And," quipped Randy Marks, "maybe the Serbians will start making apple pies for the Bosnians."

There just didn't seem any way to shake my friends out of their gloom. I pointed out how they had complained about 1994 and how it turned out to be one of the best years the country had — not counting what happened to people's money in Orange County, California.

Nancy Gordon was not to be persuaded. She said, "My astrologer predicted that I would have seven years' bad luck if I went through the Lincoln Tunnel at rush hour — and I don't even live in New Jersey."

Another Royal Strike

The Associated Press

LONDON — Gold has been found at Balmoral, the British royal family's home in Scotland. Geologists from the British Geological Survey say they have found tiny traces of gold in some streams on the country estate. Last month, seismic studies indicated a small oil field under Windsor Castle, the royal residence near London.

A Russian Director Goes on Location, in California

By Judy Stone

LOCKE, California — In this historic, ramshackle Chinese town, 25 miles south of Sacramento, a 10-year-old California girl is teaching a Russian actor to recite "How much wood can a woodchuck chuck?" when their Russian director calls for another take of a scene outside an establishment called Al the Wop's Restaurant.

It is an incongruous setting for "American Daughter," the first Russian film to be shot in the United States and a project not without the hazards and headaches of current Russian moviemaking.

The director, Karen Shkazarov, is among countless filmmakers from the former Soviet Union who have been cut off from previously generous state support.

No reliable statistics are available, but film production has dropped in Russia and is at a standstill in other republics like Georgia, which has a glorious cinematic tradition.

Some Russian producers are finding independent financing at home, but it has been difficult for them to distribute the work because theater screens are dominated by American films. Other Russian directors, like Shkazarov, are scrambling for co-production deals in other countries.

His film, a father-daughter road movie, was filmed in five weeks last fall — just like a low-budget independent American feature, without the usual big studio support of Russia's Mosfilm.

The \$500,000 budget was financed solely by Boris Giller, one of Russia's new capitalists, a former screenwriter and journalist who says that he made \$15 million in newspaper publishing and real estate in Kazakhstan.

The plot will seem familiar to some Russians. In the film, an 8-year-old (Allison Whitebeck) is kidnapped by her Russian mother (Mariya Shushkina) and taken to live in California.

The mother marries a wealthy American and tells the daughter that her father is dead. When the father (Vladimir Mashkov) turns up, a bond is established between them, and she

decides to return to Russia to visit her dying grandmother.

In order to elude a police search initiated by the mother, she disguises herself with a boyish haircut, buys her father an outlandish cowboy outfit, and the two begin hitchhiking to Mexico, where, she thinks, it will be easier to get a flight to Russia.

Acquaintances of the director say the script was inspired by a similar situation in his own family.

Shkazarov, a stocky man of 42, is tight-lipped on the subject, but his 9-year-old daughter by his second wife lives in California. The director lives with his third wife, a young actress, and a son, 2, in Moscow. All he will say is that he knows other Russian parents who have had children taken to the United States.

"American Daughter" is his eighth film. "It has some roots in real life," Shkazarov says in heavily accented English, "but I wanted to make something funny, just for people, not for critics."

Henry Rosenthal, the film's American producer (Giller is the Russian producer), says, "This project is a whole new model of filmmaking for Russia."

Rosenthal has produced independent films like Jon Jost's "All the Vermeers in New York," and he knows the scope of the Russians' difficulties.

"They're trying to get the biggest bang for their bucks. They were told you cannot make a film in America for under \$5 million. This has scared a lot of people away, but I told them I've made films for \$30,000 and \$5 million. The Russians are used to Mosfilm where they could take 6, 8, 12 months to shoot. What's the hurry? It's a government job."

"But this is a very elaborate script with 32 locations in northern California, and we're working at a very tough pace."

With a mixed Russian and American crew, the film came in on time and under budget despite two accidents. Shkazarov was rushed to the hospital when his foot was



Karen Shkazarov, second from left, on location in California for "American Daughter."

caught between the cab and platform of a tractor-trailer (the injury was minor).

And the director of photography, Vladimir Shevtsik, suffered a slight concussion when he was accidentally knocked to the pavement by a Hal-loween reveler.

"American Daughter" is now in postproduction back in Russia. "For us to go to the States was like going to the moon," Shkazarov says.

The son of a writer and political scientist who was an adviser to the former Soviet leader, Mikhail S. Gorbachev, Shkazarov has directed "Messenger," "Jazzman," "City Zero," and "The Assassination of the Czar," all of them successes in the former Soviet Union. "After Gorbachev, it was a golden era," Shkazarov says. "The state gave you money and there was no censorship."

More recently he had to come up with private money to finance "Dreams," a satire in which a 19th-

century aristocrat has bizarre dreams of being a waitress in post-Communist Moscow.

But some remnants of censorship remained even after the Communists fell. Shkazarov says that he was ordered to cut a scene showing champagne bottles from his film "Winter Night in Gagra," a musical comedy, because there was a campaign against drinking.

"I finally said, 'I can't cut it, but the hero will say, "It's not champagne; it's lemonade."'" It was ludicrous. Everybody could see they were champagne bottles."

To make "American Daughter" after negotiations with a Swiss company fell through, Shkazarov and his scriptwriter, Alexander Borodiansky, went looking for backing.

Giller, a graduate of VGIK, Russia's prestigious film school, told them he was in.

Shkazarov was nervous about going to America to make his film. "But Boris was very brave," he says. "It's a style I like. And soon I was

comfortable. First of all, Henry" — the film's American producer — "is a good professional. Maybe there were misunderstandings the first two weeks. He wasn't used to my usual way of improvising, but very soon he accepted this. Not many Russians improvise, but when I see actors and locations together, I understand that life is much richer than you can invent in your head."

The director was particularly pleased with the selection of Allison Whitebeck, who had never acted before, as the daughter raised in America. "She is great," Shkazarov says.

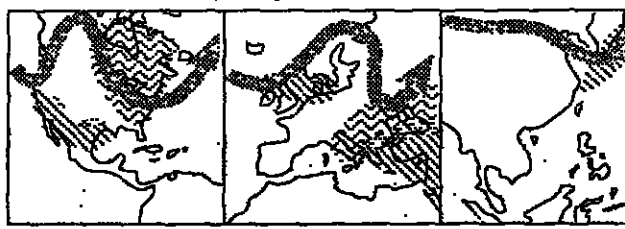
"We communicate very well — you see my English! — but she understands everything. She's an actress by God and doesn't need many explanations. She is the main luck for me in the United States."

Judy Stone, a former film critic of the San Francisco Chronicle, wrote this for The New York Times

WEATHER

Forecast for Wednesday through Friday, as provided by Accu-Weather.

Europe	Today		Tomorrow		Day After	
	High	Low	High	Low	High	Low
Algeria	75/52	74/44	76/51	74/46	77/52	75/47
American	54/31	13/34	54/31	13/34	54/31	13/34
Amsterdam	54/31	13/34	54/31	13/34	54/31	13/34
Antwerp	54/31	13/34	54/31	13/34	54/31	13/34
Berlin	54/31	13/34	54/31	13/34	54/31	13/34
Brussels	54/31	13/34	54/31	13/34	54/31	13/34
Budapest	54/31	13/34	54/31	13/34	54/31	13/34
Copenhagen	54/31	13/34	54/31	13/34	54/31	13/34
Dublin	54/31	13/34	54/31	13/34	54/31	13/34
Frankfurt	54/31	13/34	54/31	13/34	54/31	13/34
Geneva	54/31	13/34	54/31	13/34	54/31	13/34
Hamburg	54/31	13/34	54/31	13/34	54/31	13/34
London	54/31	13/34	54/31	13/34	54/31	13/34
Madrid	54/31	13/34	54/31	13/34	54/31	13/34
Moscow	54/31	13/34	54/31	13/34	54/31	13/34
Nairobi	54/31	13/34	54/31	13/34	54/31	13/34
Paris	54/31	13/34	54/31	13/34	54/31	13/34
Rome	54/31	13/34	54/31	13/34	54/31	13/34
Stockholm	54/31	13/34	54/31	13/34	54/31	13/34
Toronto	54/31	13/34	54/31	13/34	54/31	13/34
Warsaw	54/31	13/34	54/31	13/34	54/31	13/34
Winnipeg	54/31	13/34	54/31	13/34	54/31	13/34
Zurich	54/31	13/34	54/31	13/34	54/31	13/34



North America
The coldest weather of the winter so far will envelop the eastern U.S. and Canada. Aside from some snow near the Great Lakes, the weather will be dry. Rain will advance from Southern California to Texas, with perhaps some snow or ice on its northern fringe.

Europe
Rain will soak areas from Greece to Syria while snow falls from Yugoslavia to Turkey. Rain will reach from the British Isles to the Netherlands and southern Sweden. The weather will be generally dry from Spain and southern France to southern Poland.

Asia
Showers will dampen Japan on Wednesday followed by dry, chilly weather with brief winds for the remainder of the week. Korea will also have dry weather, as will most of eastern China. A few showers are likely in Vietnam, Cambodia and Thailand. The Philippines will be generally dry.

Middle East
The weather will be generally dry.

Latin America
The weather will be generally dry.

Oceania
The weather will be generally dry.

Legend: c, partly cloudy; cl, cloudy; sh, showers; t, thunderstorms; i, rain; s, snow; b, fog; w, weather. All maps, forecasts and data provided by Accu-Weather, Inc. © 1995

PEOPLE

An Italian court has banned sales of Michael Jackson's hit album "Dangerous" — which has sold 21 million copies worldwide — on the ground that one of its numbers, "Will You Be There," was lifted from "I Cigni di Balaka" (The Swans of Balaka) by the Italian singer Al Bano, whose lawyer said he intended to seek a worldwide ban and damages of about \$9 million. . . . Rod Stewart says he was too drunk during a trip to Brazil in 1979 to realize he was copying his "Do Ya Think I'm Sexy" from a song by a Brazilian star. Jorge Benjor wrote "Taj Mahal" several years before Stewart did his song with the same melody. Shortly after releasing the song in 1979, Stewart acknowledged the similarity and donated the royalties to charity. "I never met Jorge Benjor but I'd like to meet him to explain everything," Stewart was quoted as saying. "I was with Elton John and we drank too much," he said of the 1979 trip. "I remember almost nothing from that trip."

Brigitte Bardot appears to have made up with her husband, after the former screen star had police teargas him out of her Paris apartment in November. Her lawyer says The couple — she now an animal rights

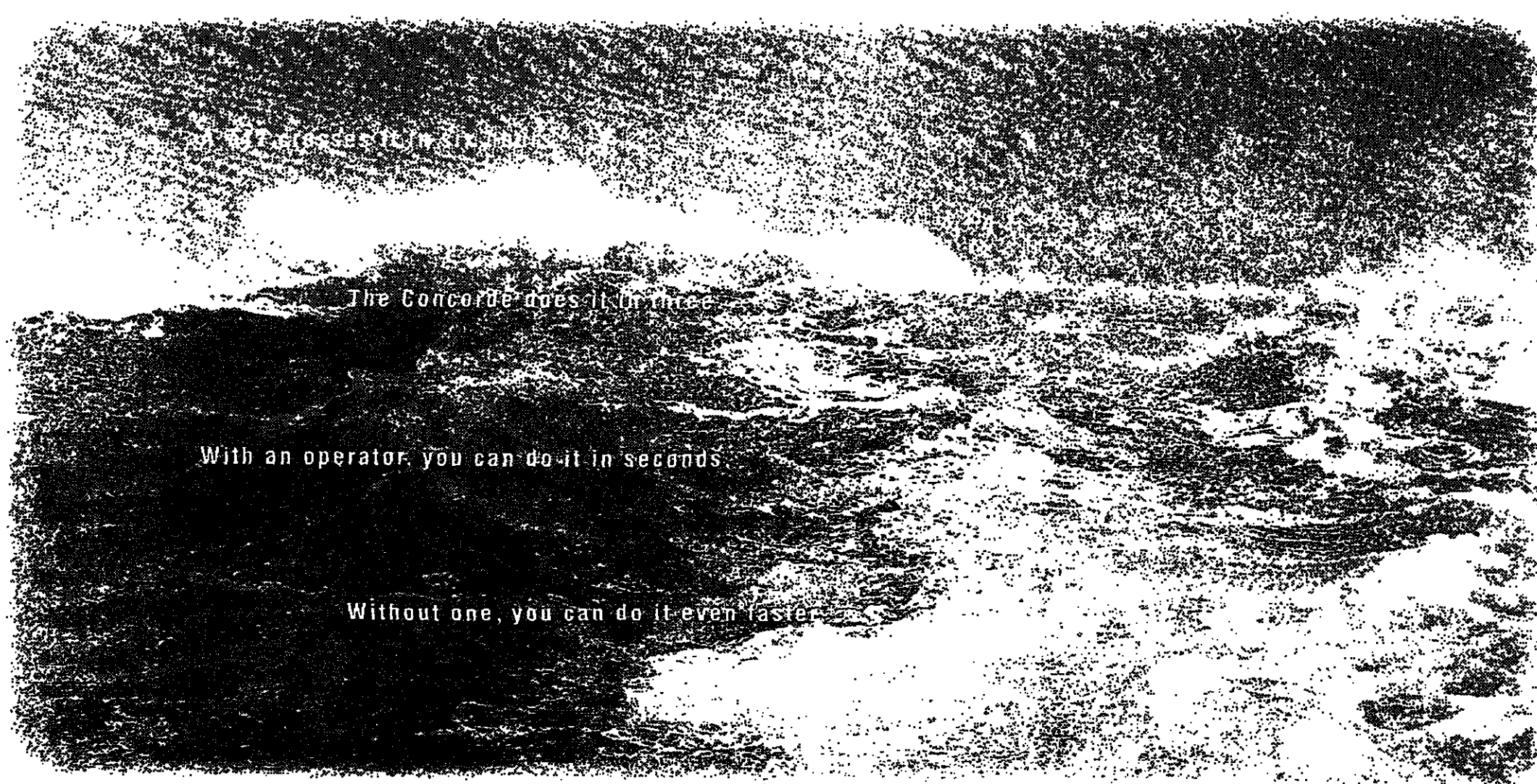


David Puttnam: On the Honors List.

dia reported. Bardot's lawyer, Gilles Dreyfus, confirmed that the couple had never officially registered their marriage, but that they did have a ceremony in a church in Norway.

The rock guitarist Eric Clapton, the film producer David Puttnam and a conscientious street sweeper were among a thousand people recognized in the New Year's Honors List for contributions to British life. In line with Prime Minister John Major's drive to break down Britain's class barriers, the list includes hundreds of ordinary people who have dedicated their lives to good causes. One such was Richard Currie, made a member of the Order of the British Empire for keeping the roads of the southern English town of Alton clean even after he was hurt in a mugging. Others honored included Rocco Forte, the hotel owner, and the actor Robert Stephens, acclaimed for his portrayal of King Lear.

The fashion designer Yves Saint Laurent, the theater director Peter Brook and a former resistance leader, André Dewarrieux, were among those awarded or promoted in the French Legion of Honor.



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CHINA PRC***	10811	RUSSIA (MOSCOW)	155-5652	BULGARIA*	00-011-1111	ITALY	172-1011	ROMANIA*	011-011-1111	EGYPT (CAIRO)	011-011-1111	COLOMBIA	00-011-1111		
HONG KONG	800-1117	SARAJEVO*	235-2872	CROATIA*	00-011-1111	LIECHTENSTEIN	195-0011	ALGERIA	00-011-1111	LIBYIA	011-011-1111	CHILE	00-011-1111		
INDIA*	800-1117	SINGAPORE	800-1117	CZECH REPUBLIC	00-011-1111	LITHUANIA**	000-011-1111	ARGENTINA	00-011-1111	LEBANON (BEIRUT)	011-011-1111	PERU	00-011-1111		
INDONESIA*	001-801-10	SOUTH AFRICA	000-100-10	DENMARK*	000-100-10	LUXEMBOURG	000-100-10	ARMENIA	00-011-1111	NETHERLANDS	00-011-1111	EL SALVADOR*	00-011-1111		
JAPAN*	0039-111	TAIWAN*	0080-100-10	FINLAND*	19-0011	NETHERLANDS	00-011-1111	ARABIA SAUDI*	00-011-1111	PORTUGAL	000-100-10	GUATEMALA	00-011-1111		
KOREA	009-11	THAILAND*	0078-1111	FRANCE	0130-0010	NETHERLANDS	00-011-1111	BAHRAIN	00-011-1111	QATAR	00-011-1111	HONDURAS*	00-011-1111		
MACAU	009-11	UNITED ARAB EMIRATES	00-011-1111	GERMANY	0130-0010	NETHERLANDS	00-011-1111	OMAN	00-011-1111	SAUDI ARABIA	00-011-1111	NICARAGUA	00-011-1111		
MALAYSIA*	800-0111	YEMEN*	00-011-1111	GREECE*	00-800-1311	NETHERLANDS	00-011-1111	PAKISTAN	00-011-1111	SYRIYAH	00-011-1111	COSTA RICA	00-011-1111		